

EEA support to the European Community in reporting obligations within the framework of international environmental conventions

**Legislative instruments,
international programmes and conventions**

March 2001

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4. Main reporting obligations under the most relevant environmental conventions ratified by the EU117

Reporting summary chart containing the reporting obligations under the international environmental conventions in force, ratified by the EU (Available in electronic format only — placed in the EEA homepage <http://www.eea.eu.int>).

Compilation of texts of the applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the EU (Available in electronic format only — placed in the EEA homepage <http://www.eea.eu.int>).

Pilot case: EU reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Monitoring Mechanism EU (Available as Technical report No 46 and in electronic format on the EEA homepage <http://www.eea.eu.int>).

Pilot case: EU reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force EU (Available as Technical report No 45 and in electronic format on the EEA homepage <http://www.eea.eu.int>).

1. Executive summary

1.1. Objective of the project

The objective of the present project according to the terms of reference is:

- to map the international environmental conventions signed and ratified by the European Commission and to assist the European Environment Agency (EEA) to streamline the reporting systems implemented in them.

1.2. Actions taken

In order to achieve the above objectives the following actions were taken:

- making a compilation of the international environmental conventions;
- preparation of summary boxes of each of the environmental conventions signed and ratified by the European Union;
- preparation of a reporting summary chart;
- detailed reports on two pilot cases: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols in force;

1.3. Compendium of the international conventions

Objective: to make a compilation of the international environmental conventions signed and ratified by the European Community up to November 1999. This contains the texts of the conventions, their amendments and protocols in force. The compilation was made on the basis of the list provided by the European Commission dated 11 November 1999, and provided to us on 2 December 1999.

Main difficulties encountered:

- Non-existence of a database containing the environmental conventions signed and ratified by the European Union: the information exists in a dispersed and unsystematic way, and multiple sources must be consulted to retrieve it.
- Uncertainty as to the validity and completeness of the texts, as many sources do not indicate whether the text has been updated or not.
- Non-existence of consolidated versions of the texts of the conventions.

Recommendations:

- The development of a database to be posted on the world wide web, containing all the conventions signed and ratified by the European Union, easily accessible and with links to the conventions' web pages. The new web page should be user friendly. We suggest structuring it according to the sub-divisions provided in our study, that is, by theme.
- Coordination with the secretariats of the different conventions should be undertaken to ensure that the database is updated with the texts of conventions, protocols and amendments that are ratified by the EU.

1.4. Preparation of summary boxes of each of the environmental conventions signed and ratified by the European Union

Objective: to provide a quick, user-friendly overview of the most relevant aspects of the conventions as well as the key contacts where more information can be obtained. The summary boxes pay particular attention to the reporting obligations involved in the conventions.

The boxes have a user-friendly structure so that they can be consulted and updated easily, and the flexibility to allow for extension or reduction as needed.

Main difficulties encountered:

- Information is not available to the public through the world wide web.
- Direct contact by telephone or fax with the secretariats was therefore required, and major difficulties were encountered in completing the information needed for the summary boxes from this source.
- Most of the secretariats' web pages do not provide updated information.

Recommendations:

- Create a database where the summary boxes can be posted and linked with the database containing the texts of the environmental conventions and the secretariats' own web pages.
- Ensure adequate updating of the information provided in the boxes by establishing links with the secretariats of the conventions.

1.5. Reporting summary chart

Objective: To provide a schedule to Member States where the reporting obligations that should be met under each environmental convention included in this project can be easily found.

Main difficulties encountered:

- Information is not accessible to the public.
- The impossibility of obtaining such information from the secretariats despite several rounds of e-mails followed by personal contact by telephone.

Recommendations:

We recommend creating a database to be posted on the web and updated regularly by each convention secretariat. This would allow parties to the conventions to have an overview of their reporting obligations for the coming years. The possibility of distributing such schedules to those responsible for the reporting in each country should be considered.

1.6. Main reporting obligations under the most relevant environmental conventions ratified by the European Community

Objective: Based on the information included in the summary boxes, we provide a general view of the main reporting obligations derived from the most relevant conventions included in the project.

Main difficulties encountered:

- Information is not accessible to the public;
- The impossibility of obtaining such information from the secretariats despite several rounds of e-mails followed by personal contact by telephone.

Recommendations

We recommend creating a database to be posted on the web and updated regularly by each of the convention secretariats. This would allow parties to such conventions to have an overview of their reporting obligations for the coming years.

1.7. Detailed reports on two pilot cases: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force

1.7.1. EU reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and the Monitoring Mechanism

Objective: to analyse the European Union reporting under the UNFCCC and the Monitoring Mechanism in order to point out existing problems and put forward proposals to streamline the existing reporting system.

Reporting obligations under the UNFCCC:

- Production of annual inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals to be submitted by 15 April each year.
- Submission of national communications addressing the full range of a party's action to implement all its UNFCCC obligations, including those relating to adaptation, research, education and other actions, in addition to those limiting emissions and enhancing sinks. National communications must be submitted on a regular basis at three-to-five-year intervals. The submission of the third national communication is scheduled for 30 November 2001.
- It was agreed at the Fifth Conference of the parties that Annex I parties should submit with their national communications a detailed report on activities in relation to systematic observation.

The reporting systems under the UNFCCC

When fulfilling their reporting obligations parties should follow the established guidelines adopted by the Conference of the parties for inventories and national communications.

A revision procedure to update such guidelines is established by the convention in order to continuously upgrade the comparability and transparency of the information reported by parties. Recently at the Fifth Conference of the parties a revision of the revised guidelines was adopted for the next submissions of inventories and national communications, including the adoption of a common reporting format.

The convention also establishes an in-depth review procedure of the national communications submitted by parties.

The main problems of the European Union in fulfilling its obligations under the UNFCCC are:

- the difficulty of the EU in meeting the schedule imposed under the convention due to the delay with which Member States submit their national reports to it;
- the dependency of the EU reporting system on its Member States' reports, especially relating to inventories, policies and measures;
- the need to overcome inconsistencies in the reporting practices of the Member States;
- incomplete information in the Member States' communications.

Monitoring Mechanism

In order to monitor annually the European Union's progress towards the objective of stabilising carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 and the commitments undertaken under the UNFCCC, the EU has implemented a parallel system of reporting at the European level between its Member States and the European Commission: the EU Monitoring Mechanism. The Monitoring Mechanism was established by Decision 93/389 EEC, and was recently modified by Decision 99/296 EC. The revision of the Monitoring Mechanism aims to reinforce its role considerably. The Monitoring Mechanism is so far the only legal instrument available to assess progress towards the Kyoto commitments.

Reporting obligations:

- annual inventories should be submitted by Member States to the Commission not later than 31 December. Member States should report in their inventories:
 - anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and removal by sinks for the previous calendar year;
 - national inventory data on emissions/removals of the six Kyoto greenhouse gases on an annual basis;
 - the most recent projected emissions for the period 2008-12.

The Commission should assess annually in consultation with the Member States whether the current and projected progress is sufficient to ensure commitments and should report to the European Parliament and the Council, even in the case of incomplete data from Members.

- Member States should also report on national programmes to the Commission. Their frequency and updating will be established by the Commission under Committee procedure. The sufficiency of such national programmes should be assessed.

Conclusions

After analysing the existing reporting system under the UNFCCC and the European Monitoring Mechanism, we came to the conclusions below.

- The reporting system developed under the UNFCCC and the subsequent decisions adopted by the Conference of the parties can be considered as a sophisticated reporting system, where a considerable degree of transparency and comparability of information has been reached. This reporting system, as stated in the provisions of the convention, is permanently submitted to a revision procedure, in order to improve and upgrade its efficiency. It is without doubt one of the most sophisticated reporting systems implemented by any international environmental convention to date. We understand its success is based on the following features:
 - The existence of a predetermined calendar, according to which parties should submit and update their inventories annually and their national communications at regular three-to-five-year intervals.
 - The existence of a set of guidelines that parties should follow in the submission of their reports to the Secretariat of the Convention, and the periodical review procedure of such guidelines established under the convention to improve the consistency, transparency and comparability of the information provided. The transparency of the reporting is a key element in the success of the process for the communication and consideration of information, especially relating to inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and for projections and assessments of the effect of measures. The reporting guidelines adopted by the Conference of the parties have been revised and updated several times

already with this aim. The last revision of such guidelines was recently adopted at the Fifth Conference of the parties in Bonn in order to update them for the preparation of the third national communication, scheduled for 30 November 2001. The revision of the revised guidelines contains a common reporting format, which is part of the national inventory report. According to this, Annex I parties will, from 2000, have to report their inventory information using the tables of the common reporting format. Its adoption will considerably increase the transparency and comparability of the inventories. It will also facilitate the technical review of inventory information as well as its processing, and the preparation of useful technical analysis and synthesis documentation.

- The obligation to use a set of concrete and detailed guidelines (IPCC guidelines) and comparable methodologies in the presentation of data for national inventories.
- The existence of an in-depth review mechanism to assess the information submitted by the parties under their national communications.
- The recent adoption at the Fifth Conference of the parties of guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories, aimed at improving consistency in the review of annual greenhouse gas inventories and establishing a process for a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of inventories.

Nevertheless, the UNFCCC reporting system also has certain deficiencies, mainly in the evaluation of the policy measures adopted by the parties. The UNFCCC guidelines focus mostly on the descriptive aspects of such policies but do not provide a common base to evaluate the qualitative and quantitative effects of the implementation of the mitigation policies. This results in a lack of transparency in the reporting. The adoption of a standard methodology to evaluate the mitigation effects of policies should be considered.

Additionally it should be pointed out that the sophistication of the UNFCCC reporting systems require a degree of expertise that parties do not always have. The result is that most of the time the reporting instruments offered by the system are not used properly by the parties or imply an excessive burden that discourages reporting. As an Annex I party, the European Union has to prepare and update by 15 April each year an annual inventory of anthropogenic emissions/removals by sinks, as well as submitting a national communication when scheduled by the Conference of the parties. The first communication of the European Union under the UNFCCC was due on 21 September 1994 but was only submitted to the Secretariat on 11 June 1996. The second communication, updating the previous communication on the state of implementation of measures to address climate change which are or will be pursued at Union level, was submitted in July 1998. The communication builds on communications submitted by the Member States under UNFCCC and/or under the Union's internal Monitoring Mechanism.

The lack of implementation of the Monitoring Mechanism up to now has obliged the Commission to base its evaluations mainly on the national communications submitted by Member States under the UNFCCC. The degree to which the Union's communication builds on the national submissions varies, but these are particularly important for the sections on inventories, policies and measures. EU communications under the UNFCCC are prepared by the Commission, assisted by the European Environment Agency (EEA). The role of the latter is to compile the EU inventory based on Member States' inventories submitted under the UNFCCC and the Monitoring Mechanism, and to coordinate and lead activities to improve methodologies and presentation. Furthermore, the EEA provides extensive software tools for countries to compile and report their annual inventories and also organises regular workshops for training and exchange of experience. The EEA also

incorporates certain adjustments in order to improve internal consistency. Because of this dependency on Member States' reporting, the EU annual inventory communications under the UNFCCC were submitted late before 2000, since at the due date several Member States' communications were not available. However, reporting in 2000 was on time, although the quality of the reporting could still be further improved.

The main problems of the European Commission in fulfilling its obligations under the UNFCCC are:

- the difficulty of the EU in meeting the schedule imposed under the convention due to the delay with which Member States submit their national reports, in particular on policies and measures;
- the dependency of the EU reporting system on its Member States' reports especially concerning inventories, policies and measures;
- how to overcome inconsistencies in the reporting practices of the Member States;
- the lack of reporting of some of the Member States;
- the submission of incomplete reports by Member States;
- the quality of the data submitted;
- the non-use or partial use by some of the Member States of the guidelines;
- the different interpretation of the guidelines by Member States;
- the need for coordination of the Commission services on all the relevant sections of the communication.

In order to overcome such difficulties, it is important to develop a reporting system at a European level. The EEA is playing an important role in the issue of reporting inventory data. With the aim of achieving a uniform and comprehensive air emissions inventory system at Union level, the European Topic Centre on Air Emissions (ETC/AE) software tool system (CORINAIR) has been developed. The system is compatible with the IPCC guidelines. At the end of 1999, after adoption by the Sixth Conference of the parties in November 1999, the ETC/AE started the development of a software package which will be fully compatible with the common reporting format. Member States can test a system during 2000, to achieve improved reporting to both the Monitoring Mechanism and the UNFCCC by the end of 2000 or early 2001.

Regular workshops led by the EEA assisted by the ETC/AE and software training are also useful tools for ensuring a common approach in the use of such a package.

It should be noted that the Secretariat of the UNFCCC as well as the parties have made great efforts to provide transparency in the reporting system, which can be accessed through the web page of the Secretariat.

In addition to the existing reporting system under the UNFCCC, the EU has implemented a parallel system of reporting at the European level between its Member States and the European Commission. Its aim is to monitor annually the Union's progress towards the objective of stabilising carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 and the commitments undertaken under the UNFCCC. The Monitoring Mechanism established by Decision 93/389 EEC has recently been modified by Decision 99/296 EC. According to this, Member States must each year, not later than 31 December, report to the Commission their anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and removal by sinks for the previous calendar year. Member States must also report national inventory data on emissions/removals of the six Kyoto greenhouse gases on an annual basis. They should also report on the most recent projected emissions for the period 2008-12. The Commission should assess annually in consultation with the Member States whether current and projected progress is sufficient to ensure commitments and report to the European Parliament and the Council, even in the case of incomplete data from Members.

Member States should also report under the Monitoring Mechanism on national programmes, the frequency and updating of which will be established by the Commission under committee procedure. The sufficiency of such national programmes will be assessed.

The revision of the Monitoring Mechanism will reinforce its role considerably. The obligation of the Commission to submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council, even in the cases of incomplete data having been received from the Member States, will increase its efficiency and make clear which Member States have not observed their reporting obligations.

The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, containing clearly binding reduction targets, will have serious implications for the Monitoring Mechanism. Article 4 of the Kyoto Protocol, implementing the possibility for parties to fulfil their commitments jointly as well as the responsibility of each party for its own target in case the collective target is not reached, will make it extremely important for the EU to have an effective means of tracking progress towards this target. The Monitoring Mechanism should play this role. With this aim, efficient reporting by Member States is crucial. The Monitoring Mechanism has up till now been the only legal instrument available to assess progress towards the Kyoto commitments. It will be necessary therefore to ensure the full implementation of this mechanism and its enforceability. It will be important to ensure that the obligation to produce annual assessment reports is complied with, even in the case of incomplete data.

In order to improve transparency and comparability under the Monitoring Mechanism, it will be important to test the usability of the UNFCCC guidelines before deciding on possible additional guidelines at the EU level.

The implementation of a system of in-depth reviews comparable to the one established under the UNFCCC, in order to assess the reporting practices of the Member States under the Monitoring Mechanism, will enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring and control of the reporting system and facilitate the assessment of EU progress towards the emissions reduction target.

It will also be important to make the reporting practices under the Monitoring Mechanism accessible to the public, posting full reports of Member States or at least summaries of them on the world wide web as part of the EIONET system, including national EIONET servers. This could also be an important incentive to improve the efficiency of the system. This is already being done by the EEA.

A maximum level of compatibility between the reporting schedules and methodologies under the UNFCCC and the Monitoring Mechanism should be ensured in order to avoid an unnecessary reporting burden for Member States.

To improve Member States' reporting skills, it will be necessary to develop training courses or workshops for the people responsible for the reporting in each Member State. This could be an important instrument to improve the comparability of the Member States' reporting practices, improving their reporting skills and giving them not only comparable reporting but also a comparable way to apply it. It will also foster the exchange of national experience in reporting and the discussion of ways of improving the common reporting system.

1.8. European Community reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force

Objective: to provide guidelines with the main features of the incipient reporting system being developed under this convention.

Although specific reporting obligations are established under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, no reporting system, except for the Emergency Protocol, has as yet been put in place to channel and organise this information. These obligations consist of the requirements established in the convention and the rest of protocols, mainly addressed to the Convention Secretariat (MEDU). These requirements have not been implemented further, but certain recommendations, which are not usually complied with by the parties, have been adopted and approved by the conferences of the parties and plenipotentiaries.

However, efforts have begun towards the establishment of one reporting system applicable to all the agreements concerned, based on the new texts.

Main reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols

Reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, have only been developed very superficially through some meetings of the parties. Therefore, as stated above, except for the Emergency Protocol no reporting system exists for this convention.

The main contracting parties' reporting obligations consist of reporting every two years (which is the frequency with which the parties have to meet) on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols to the Secretariat of the convention. This is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), centralised for the Mediterranean Action Plan in the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, located in Athens and called MEDU.

Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft

The 'Dumping Protocol' contains a list setting out the factors that must be considered by national governments when issuing permits for dumping. As these permits must be reported to MEDU, the records made by the contracting parties have to contain all this information. Dumping made under *force majeure*, and therefore without a permit, must be immediately reported to MEDU or directly to the parties. If it is impossible for the country to avoid prohibited dumping of something that cannot be disposed of on land, the party must consult MEDU, which, after consulting other parties, will recommend certain actions to be adopted. The party should supply information on the development of these actions.

The Ninth Conference of the parties recommended that the contracting parties send annual reports to MEDU, and although this is not legally binding, contracting parties act this way.

Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Case of Emergency

To comply with the Emergency Protocol, a regional strategy on the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships, and within it a regional information system, has been developed and is annually updated by the Regional Activity Centre.

It must be pointed out that for the case of emergency situations noticed by a contracting party, a pollution reporting system (POLREP) has been in operation since the early 1990s. In this we find a standard pollution alert accident reporting format recommended by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). At the same time, there are principles and guidelines to be followed concerning cooperation and mutual assistance (Seventh Conference of the parties).

Within the Emergency Protocol, the contracting parties report to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean (REMPEC), which relays all communications to MEDU. Finally MEDU reports to the contracting parties on matters related to this protocol.

General reporting obligations, such as notification to REMPEC of the national competent authorities, are made by the parties whenever changes take place.

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources

Under this protocol, contracting parties must inform one another, through MEDU, of measures taken, results achieved and possible difficulties encountered in the application of this protocol.

The tenth ordinary meeting of the parties adopted the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities, based on amended text which is not yet in force. Within this action plan, parties will submit their reports to the meeting of the contracting parties, through the Secretariat, in compliance with the requirements of the Protocol.

The contracting parties are required to report to the Secretariat every two years. Parties currently report every two years because that is when they meet, but once the Protocol's amended version enters into force, this schedule will become legally binding.

Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas¹

The SPA Protocol establishes the obligation of the parties to publish information on the establishment of protected areas. This and any other relevant information must be reported to MEDU so that it can keep its directory of protected areas up to date. The parties must report to MEDU on measures taken in pursuance of this protocol for the safeguarding of the protected areas, the species present in them and any threats to those areas.

Parties report every two years when the conferences of the parties are held. However, unofficially a very simple reporting format has been developed by the Regional Activity Centre for this protocol (SPA/CAR) which helps the parties to comply with the Centre's requirements before the biannual meetings of the focal points (the last one – the fourth – was held in Tunis in April 1999). At least, the parties attending the focal point meetings usually comply with the requirements of the Centre.

Main difficulties encountered in implementing the reporting obligations mechanism

- Lack of comparable and transparent information. As no standard formats exist for complying with the reporting obligations, the Secretariat faces a lack of comparable data and subsequent difficulties when compiling the information.
- Lack of a harmonised reporting system. The Mediterranean Action Plan does not have a reporting system to enable the contracting parties to the convention to comply with their reporting obligations.

Only under the Emergency Protocol, as mentioned above, does a regional reporting system exist, which compiles all the recommendations made by the parties and has a reporting format to channel this information.

- Lack of a concrete and precise calendar according to which parties should submit their reporting. Although a timeframe is established within the convention and its protocols, no specific schedule exists for the parties to submit their reports.

¹ At the date of this publication the SPA Protocol has been replaced by the SPA & Biodiversity Protocol (date of entry into force: 12 December 1999)

- Lack of compliance of the parties with their reporting obligations, submission of incomplete reports and non-compliance with the timeframe. As no binding procedure exists, neither the parties nor the Secretariat are concerned about compliance with the reporting obligations, while awaiting the creation of a reporting system.

Conclusions

The MAP coordinating unit, MEDU, is now organising the mechanism of the reporting obligations under the various protocols. A similar process, related to EU legislation, is under development and implementation by the EEA and the European Commission; this practical experience would be of relevance for MEDU. We therefore propose cooperation between MEDU and the EEA on exchanging experience and know-how. Considering also that the European Commission, some EU Member States and some Accession countries are contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, the EEA would be appropriately placed to support the European Commission and EU Member States in:

- compiling information on aspects of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols through a collaboration agreement between MEDU and the six regional activity centres;
- validating this information by comparing all the available data;
- selecting the most relevant data;
- organising these data, separating those relevant to reporting obligations and the data of general interest on Mediterranean matters;
- creating a data base where:
 - comprehensive guidelines are established to assist the contracting parties to the convention in complying properly with their reporting obligations, and at the same time to provide a global view of the state of development and implementation of the convention and its protocols;
 - existing information provided by the information sources is gathered and organised by theme according to its relevance either to reporting obligations or to general matters;
 - the Barcelona Convention Secretariat and other EEA information providers have controlled access to introduce data;
 - access will be controlled so the EEA is able to validate every input.
- direct and user friendly access to the data base by its final users.

1.9. Conclusions

This preliminary project constitutes a first general approach to the problematic issue of the reporting obligations contained in the environmental conventions ratified by the European Community. In this project we have analysed these general reporting obligations by studying two pilot cases, one with global scope (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), and the other with regional scope (the Barcelona Convention, relating to the Mediterranean).

A more detailed study of the specific problems concerning the reporting systems of the international environmental conventions should be the subject of other projects where visits to each secretariat and meetings with the personnel responsible for the reporting process should be planned for.

The main features of the current review of existing reporting practices under the international environmental conventions can be summarised as follows below.

- The existence of a wide variety of environmental reports. The types of reports to be completed under each convention vary enormously: detailed statistics, more interpretative state-of-the-environment reports, policy reviews, annual progress

reports, thematic reports, indicator reports, statistical compendia, inventories of data, etc. They also vary in the range of environmental issues covered, geographic coverage, their degree of data dependency and publication media.

- The existence of a wide variety of reporting systems. The reporting systems implemented by the international environmental conventions differ enormously. Some of them rely on sophisticated and demanding procedures, such as the UNFCCC, while others are just in the early stages of construction (the Barcelona Convention). Some of these systems propose very detailed reporting formats while others only contain a few indicative guidelines. Even so, such guidelines do not exist in all conventions and do not always ensure the production of comparable and transparent information from the concerned parties. Normally, state-of-the-environment reports do not make clear recommendations on format and are somewhat unsystematic.
- Lack of harmonisation in the frequency and timeframes of the reporting systems.
- Lack of a concrete and precise calendar according to which parties should submit their reports. Most of the conventions do not present a concrete schedule that parties should meet when submitting their reports. This makes it difficult to establish baseline years of information and seriously hinders the comparability of information.
- Increased burden of reporting in recent years, as a result of the establishment of new reporting obligations in response to both national policies and international agreements.
- Emergence of new forms of reporting due to the appearance of new technologies, which results in modifications in the structure, style and frequency of the reporting practices.
- Lack of comparable and transparent information. One of the big difficulties that the secretariats face when compiling information is the lack of comparable data resulting from the submissions of the parties.
- Non-existence of a common reporting format or detailed guidelines that parties should follow in their reporting.
- Non-existence of common methodologies and common definitions.
- The same information has to be reported under different conventions as a result of the lack of coordination between the secretariats of the conventions.
- Lack of publicity and public access to the environmental reporting. Reporting under international conventions is rarely accessible to the public via the world wide web and access through the secretariats is not always easy.
- Lack of compliance of the parties with their reporting obligations. Submission of incomplete reports and non-compliance with deadlines.
- Lack of evaluation procedures of the information submitted by the parties by the secretariats.

The combined end result is the existence of an unmanageable amount of information, often underutilised as the need to organise and collate the data to extract useful information would require vast resources. Even if it clear that such reports constitute a potential source of rich and valuable environmental information, not only for the public but also for policy and strategic management at different levels of decision making, up to now the added value obtained from such reports has been limited. Nevertheless, the reporting systems must face increasing challenges to answer the growing demand for information from:

- increasing awareness of environmental issues by the general public and at the stakeholder level;
- an increasing demand to exercise the right of access to information legally protected at the EU level by Directive 90/313/EEC and at the international level by the Aarhus Convention;
- increasing demand for data on environmental policy and management;

- increasing need for collaboration and communication between decision-makers in different areas and in different regions and countries in order to tackle the complex multimedia, multi-sector and cross-boundary problems of the environment.

To meet these challenges a significant effort should be made to exploit the potential added value of this 'raw information' and to implement rationalisation mechanisms for its treatment and handling. The European Environment Agency can play an important role in this field. With this aim the following actions are recommended:

- Wider dissemination of the reporting through the creation of a user-friendly web page, compiling the reports produced under international environmental conventions. As has been pointed out previously, the increasing demand for reliable environmental information from the public and stakeholders is one of the main challenges that the reporting systems face today. Most of the time such information exists but is dispersed and disordered among the different reports produced under the multiple environmental conventions and is not easily accessible to the public. To answer this demand for information, this information must urgently be made available to the public. For this reason, it is important to create a web page listing the available reports and reporting schedules and providing links to pages for individual reports: a European reporting web page compiling the EU Member States' and European Union reports under the different environmental conventions. It is fundamental to build a user-friendly web page where information can be easily accessed and interpreted by means of a structure of thematic areas and links with the secretariats of the conventions. The public availability of the reporting must be enhanced through a shift away from traditional paper-based forms of reporting to digital forms through diskette or CD-ROM. Great emphasis should be put on the adequate management of the web page in order to regularly update all information.

The publication of the reports on the world wide web has far-ranging implications:

- it would turn the reports into more dynamic information sources that can be continuously updated and accessed, thus facilitating the compilation of information;
- it would enable cross-links between the different reports and the development of full-blown data bases;
- a web page structured by thematic areas would easily pinpoint the duplicity of information and facilitate the process of construction of cluster reporting systems by subject.
- Implementation of a common reporting format at the European level. In order to use this information it is important that the reports can be organised, compared and integrated in a consistent form. A number of problems arise from the different timeframes, formats and methodologies used, which are significant barriers to this integration. To ensure that added value can be extracted from the information reported by parties, it is essential that the data reported within the framework of the environmental conventions can be easily subject to comparison. The comparability of data is enhanced in those cases where the convention provides:
 - precise and complete guidelines that parties should follow when fulfilling their reporting obligations;
 - common methodologies to be used when reporting.

This need to have comparable data is particularly relevant in the case of the reporting of the European Union, which is essentially based on the information provided by the Member States. In order to obtain comparable information, especially in those cases where the environmental convention does not provide

concrete reporting guidelines or a reporting format, it would be extremely useful to create a common reporting format at the European level.

- **Development and implementation of an evaluation procedure of the reports** submitted by the parties in order to identify gaps and deficiencies and subsequently improve on the existing guidelines and methodologies. Most of the international conventions do not establish evaluation procedures of the reports of the parties. Such procedures are an important instrument to progressively overcome the deficiencies of the reporting systems. In those cases where the evaluation procedure does not exist, such a procedure should be developed and implemented at the Member States' reporting level.
- **Implementation of an in-depth review procedure at the European Level.** In order to tackle the deficiencies of the reporting of the Member States, an in-depth review procedure should be developed and implemented through a system including visits of a designated task force of the EU Commission to those responsible for the reporting in each country. This will enable better understanding of the problems facing the reporting process and the development of customised solutions that can be built into the general reporting strategy.
- **Establishment of international monitoring networks and adoption of international data standards.**
- **Establishment of a European schedule with all the reporting obligations that the parties will meet in the coming years and implementation of an updating system for the agenda with automatic reminders of up-coming events or deadlines.** This could be easily integrated in the web page described above.

Increased collaboration and consultation between the agencies responsible for environmental monitoring. There is a wide range of reporting agencies and a lack of formal linkages between many of the organisations concerned.

Access to the reports through the world wide web would enhance the collaboration between agencies and the development of cross-links between different reports and data sources from the different agencies and countries, and enable comparison between them. However, a prerequisite is greater comparability between reports from different countries.

Increased collaboration among the agencies will enable an exchange of experiences and discussion of possibilities to enhance the harmonisation of reporting systems and methodologies. The EEA could play an important part in this process by organising and hosting meetings to discuss reporting strategies and schedules.

- **Building of cross-reference mechanisms in order to prevent Member States double reporting the same information, and implementation of a cluster reporting system.** It is important to define and implement cross-references between the information obtained from these reports to truly reveal the possibilities of harmonisation between the different reports. Networks can be established to support implementation in a specific theme or cluster.
- **Organisation of workshops and training to provide reporting information expertise to guide Member States in their reporting obligations.**
- **Development of standard categories for describing Member States' policies and methodologies.**

- **Ensure availability of resources in the European Commission and / or EEA to receive information, to perform quality checks, to aggregate the data and to conduct evaluation.**

2. Methodology

2.1. Objective of the project

The wider objective of the above project is to provide the EEA with assistance for streamlining the reporting system for efficient information analysis within the framework of multilateral environmental conventions. This will fulfil the requirement to obtain comparable and accessible information from the contracting parties according to their reporting obligations towards the executive bodies of the conventions.

2.2. Methodology

2.2.1. *Scope of the project*

This project covers international global, regional and sub-regional conventions (including those affecting the European continent). Only the conventions, protocols and agreements ratified by the EU are subject to this study.

However, at the request of the European Environment Agency, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (25.06.1998, Aarhus) has also been included although it has not yet been ratified by the European Community.

This project was finished in December 1999 and reviewed in May 2000.

2.2.2. *Approaches developed and steps carried out*

The Garrigues & Andersen multidisciplinary team of environmental experts developed seven different approaches in order to provide the EEA with information on EU reporting obligations, as contracting party to the environmental international conventions it has ratified.

These seven approaches were:

- compilation of the international environmental conventions ratified by the European Community, plus the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention);
- summary boxes of the international environmental conventions in force ratified by the European Community plus the Aarhus Convention;
- reporting summary chart containing the main reporting obligations directly derived from the texts of the international environmental conventions in force ratified by the European Community plus the Aarhus Convention;
- main reporting obligations directly derived from the texts of the most relevant environmental conventions ratified by the European Community;
- pilot case: the European Community reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the monitoring system;
- pilot case: the European Community reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force;

The steps carried out by Garrigues & Andersen were as follows:

2.2.3. *Compilation of texts*

DG Environment of the European Commission (DG XI) provided us with a list of the international conventions relating to the environment that have been ratified by the European Community (EC) and have entered into force (note that when in the report is mentioned EU means European Union encompassing the reporting

obligation of the European Community and the reporting obligations of the Member States as parties to the same international environmental conventions. The latest version was provided to us on 2 December 1999 (and dated as of 11 November 1999). This list has been organised in a coherent way in order to make the information user friendly.

The development of the conventions mentioned in the list provided by the DG XI that were not in force has been followed in order to gauge their relevance to this project.

The compilation consists of two parts and six sections organised in the following way:

PART I
I Water – international rivers and lakes
II Oceans and seas
PART II
III Nature protection – flora and fauna
IV Air and atmosphere
V Industry / hazardous substances and wastes
VI General

The texts of the conventions, protocols and agreements were obtained from international and national databases such as Justice/Celex, Ecoiuris, La Ley or Aranzadi.

Secretariats' web pages and direct consultation with them (by telephone, fax or e-mail) were useful to verify that the conventions' texts had been updated and to obtain those that could not be found from other sources.

2.2.4. Summary boxes

In order to prepare the summary boxes of the different multilateral agreements included in this project, the texts were analysed and summarised according to their main characteristics and the general reporting obligations derived from them.

The following information is generally contained in the summary boxes:

- secretariat of the convention/protocol/agreement
- depositary
- signature, time and place of adoption
- entry into force
- European Union accession and entry into force
- status of participation
- last conference of the parties
- next conference of the parties
- scope of the convention/protocol/agreement
- amendments and additional protocols
- aims of the convention/protocol/agreement
- obligations of the parties
- financial issues
- linkages with other environmental or general conventions
- sources on the Internet
- reporting obligations under the convention/protocol/agreement.

To prepare these summary boxes, the Garrigues & Andersen team developed a strategy to cover all the relevant areas.

The first step of this strategy was a thorough reading of the text of each convention, protocol or agreement to extract its main ideas and the reason why it was adopted.

Once the spirit of the document was clear to the team, a second step consisted of collecting the relevant information from different sources.

Consultation (by telephone, fax and e-mail) with the secretariats or executive bodies of the conventions was essential as they are the ones with the closest knowledge of the documents whose implementation they oversee.

Besides consulting these bodies, other public documentation centres, such as the Delegation of the United Nations in Spain, the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and universities, were asked for advice and information.

Web pages of all the different conventions, secretariats and others related to them were consulted.

Protocols and agreements were analysed, paying special attention to the recommendations to the parties.

Legal databases (especially Justice/Celex) were also useful to obtain certain relevant data on the implementation of the conventions in the European Union.

Once all the data necessary to complete the summary boxes had been compiled, it was analysed to extract the main common general aspects of the conventions.

A common format was then created and, following a process of synthesis, the most relevant information was put into this format.

Once this was done, the summary boxes were completed with data extracted from existing literature on these conventions, and also with new information received from some secretariats answering our previous requests.

After having filled in all the summary boxes, their contents were checked by re-contacting all the conventions' executive bodies (mainly by telephone and e-mail).

2.2.5. Reporting summary chart

This chart was created by re-structuring the information selected for the summary boxes, focusing on the reporting obligations directly derived from the conventions' texts. The strategy followed was essentially the same as for the summary boxes, but the analysis and synthesis differed as the objectives were different.

Convention texts contain general reporting obligations but these are usually developed by additional reports prepared by the conventions' secretariats and working groups that are not included in the scope of this project.

Therefore, following careful analysis of the information, the structure below was created to contain it in a clear way:

Main reporting obligation			
Convention	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content
I. Water – international rivers and lakes			
II. Oceans and seas			
III. Nature protection – flora and fauna			
IV. Air and atmosphere			
V. Industry/hazardous substances and waste			
VI. General			

The information was synthesised to ensure that the most relevant facts were included in the chart and finally the contents were double-checked with the conventions' secretariats.

In most of the cases information provided by the conventions' secretariats did not correspond to the questionnaire sent by Garrigues & Andersen dealing with specific aspects of the reporting obligations.

Even if secretariats were contacted by telephone and re-e-mailed the requested information was not usually provided.

We recommend in a phase II of the project, visits to the secretariats and meetings with the personnel responsible for overseeing the reporting.

2.2.6. Main reporting obligations under the most relevant environmental conventions ratified by the EU

This chart was created by re-structuring the information selected for the summary boxes and contained in the main reporting summary chart.

A selection was made of the most relevant international environmental conventions in force ratified by the EU. The main reporting obligations directly derived from the conventions' texts were structured as follows:

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
I. Water– international rivers and lakes						
II. Oceans and seas						
III. Nature protection – flora and fauna						
IV. Air and atmosphere						
V. Industry/hazardous substances and waste						
VI. General						

As in the previous chart the subsequent steps consisted of synthesising the information in order to include the most relevant in the chart and finally double-checking the contents with the conventions' secretariats.

The main difficulties encountered in completing chart were:

- the detailed information required by the chart's structure. Convention texts contain general reporting obligations. Reporting obligations are usually developed by additional reports prepared by the conventions' secretariats and working groups that are not included in the scope of this project;
- the information the secretariats sent to Garrigues & Andersen was not always as detailed as the team required;

- in other cases the information was not provided although the secretariats were contacted by telephone and re-e-mailed.

In order to develop phase II of the project we recommend arranging visits to the secretariats and meetings with the relevant personnel.

2.2.7. European Community reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Monitoring Mechanism

This case study is part of the service contract detailed at the start of this section and is a pilot case of a reporting obligations system under a specific convention.

This study summarises the reporting obligations of the EU under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as party to the convention, and identifies the problems encountered by the EU in its reporting.

The study is divided in two parts. The first part is devoted to summarising the reporting obligations of the Annex I parties under the UNFCCC Convention and analysing in detail the reporting system developed and implemented under the convention. The review process of such reporting mechanisms is also analysed.

The second part is devoted to studying specifically the reporting of the European Union under the UNFCCC as well as under the Monitoring Mechanism.

The report concludes with an identification of the problems encountered by the European Union in its reporting under the UNFCCC and under the Monitoring Mechanism.

For the preparation of the report, we used the official documents of the Secretariat of the UNFCCC as our main tool.

In relation to the Monitoring Mechanism we used the official documents of the EU as well as internal documents provided to us by the EEA and the Unit of Climate Change of DG XI.

Meetings have also been held with officers of the EEA and the DG XI.

2.2.8. European Community reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force

This case study is also part of the service contract detailed at the start of this section.

The study summarises the EU reporting obligations under the applicable international environmental conventions that constitute the juridical component of the Mediterranean Action Plan: the Barcelona Convention, the Dumping Protocol, the Emergency Protocol, the LBS Protocol and the SPA Protocol².

The study was divided into several parts, as follows.

The first part of the study gives an overview of what the Mediterranean Action Plan is, its objectives and the instruments it has in order to reach these objectives.

The second part is devoted to studying the reporting obligations of the contracting parties (and therefore the EU) as derived from the legal texts of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

We refer to the relevant recommendations found in reports of the conferences of the parties and plenipotentiaries.

² At the date of this publication the SPA Protocol has been replaced by the SPA & Biodiversity Protocol (date of entry into force: 12 December 1999)

A comparative study was made, using the texts actually in force and the new ones adopted but not yet applicable. This comparative study deals with:

- the original texts of the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping Protocol actually in force and their modifications approved at the Ninth Conference of the parties in Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995, and adopted at the Fifth Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona 9-10 June 1995;
- the original LBS Protocol and the amended version adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Syracuse, 6-7 March 1996;
- the original SPA Protocol and the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity³ in the Mediterranean adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona 9-10 June 1995, including its annexes adopted by the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries in Monaco, 24 November 1996.

We conclude with the third part of the study, which deals with the existing preliminary draft of a 'Reporting system within the MAP framework' presented for future discussion at the Conference of MAP National Focal Points in Athens, 6-9 September 1999. We give a brief description of the main actions proposed within this preliminary draft, and our recommendations with respect to it.

Sources of information and main documentation used in the study

- Spanish Ministry of the Environment, Centre of Documentation and Information Services:
 - de Yturriaga Barberán, J.A. 'El Convenio de Barcelona de 1976 para la protección del mar Mediterráneo contra la contaminación' (article). Valencia, International University Menéndez Pelayo.
 - United Nations Environment Programme, *Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea* (monograph). Spain, Ministry of the Environment.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Documentation Centre / Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention in Spain:
 - Delegation of the United Nations in Spain, Documentation Centre:
 - Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Athens, 7-11 September 1987. Body of the report; Recommendations approved by the contracting parties; Appendix: Directives for the selection, establishment and management of marine and coastal zones protected in the Mediterranean, and for the notification of the pertinent information.
 - Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, 5-8 June 1995. Index; Report; Annex XIII: Recommendations and program budget for 1996.
 - Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, 9-10 June 1995.
- Index and Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, to the Dumping Protocol and on the SPA Protocol in the Mediterranean.
- The remaining texts were obtained from the MEDU website on the Internet:

³ At the date of this publication the SPA Protocol has been replaced by the SPA & Biodiversity Protocol (date of entry into force: 12 December 1999)

- The Blue Plan. Futures of the Mediterranean Basin. Environment-Development 2000-2025. Executive Summary and Suggestions for Action. 'A prospective approach'; 'From the national level to the Mediterranean level: suggestions for cooperation'. Sophia Antipolis, France.
- Remote sensing Regional Activity Centre. Press note. MEDNEWS.
- Organisational Chart of UNEP.
- Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade. 13/9/85.
- Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Documentation Centre: 'Preservación del Medio Marino y Mediterráneo'. *Bulletin of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography*.
- Fundación Entorno. Madrid. Tel: 91 575 63 94.
- Directorate General for Environment (former DG XI). European Commission in Brussels. Mr Curatolo. Tel: 00 32 2 29 63 951.
- CEYDE. Centre of Studies and European Documentation in Spain. Tel: 91 336 62 55.
- UNEP – Coordination Unit of the MAP, Athens: Reports from the conferences of the parties and of plenipotentiaries.
- National Centre for Marine Research, Athens.
- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, REMPEC, Malta: Regional Marine Information System. Part A. Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines Concerning Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance. Alert Reporting Format (from REMPEC).
- European Environment Agency: Meeting of MAP National Focal Points, Athens 6-9 September 1999. Report by the Coordinator on Activities carried out during the 1998-1999 biennium and Recommendations and Programme Budget for 2000-2001. Proposal by the Secretariat plus Corrigendum; 'Reporting system within MAP framework', 'The MED POL phase III activities for the biennium 2000-2001'; 'Draft standard data – entry form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest'.

3. Summary boxes

Section 1. Water – international rivers and lakes

1.1. International commission for the protection of the Rhine against pollution

Convention secretariat	Koblenz, GERMANY Technisch-wissenschaftliches Sekretariat PO Box 309, B-56003 Koblenz Germany Tel: +49 261 12495 Fax: +49 261 36572 e-mail: iksr@rz-online.de
Depositary	Government of the Swiss Confederation (Art. 21)
Signature, time and place of adoption	29 April 1963, Bern
Entry into force	1 May 1965 Art. 15: 'L'accord entrera en vigueur le premier jour du mois suivant la réception de la dernière notification'
European Community accession and entry into force	26 September 1978; 1 February 1979
Status of participation	Five parties and the European Economic Community
Last Conference of the parties	65th ICPR Plenary Assembly, 7-8 July 1999, Arnhem, Netherlands
Next Conference of the parties	66th Plenary Assembly, August 2000, France
Scope of the convention	Rhine waters
Amendments and additional protocols	Additional Agreement concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution (3 December 1976, Bonn) Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution 29 April 1963 Agreement on a new International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, 12th Conference of the Rhine Ministers for the Protection of the Rhine, 22 January 1998
Aims of the Convention	To take international action for the protection of the Rhine To improve the quality of Rhine water
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall continue their collaboration to protect the quality of Rhine water (Art.1)
Financial issues	Art. 12: Common costs are paid by parties as follows: Netherlands 24.5 %, France 24.5 %, Germany 24.5 %, European Union 13 %, Switzerland 12 % and Luxembourg 1.5 %
Sources on the internet	http://www.iksr.org/

Reporting obligations under the convention:

The convention urges the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine to publish an annual report in which the results of the Rhine investigations are highlighted. No further reporting provisions have been agreed under the convention or in the Additional Agreement of 1976.

1.2. Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and additional agreement to the agreement concerning the international commission for the protection of the Rhine against pollution

Convention and Agreement Secretariat	Koblenz, GERMANY Technisch-wissenschaftliches Sekretariat PO Box 309, B- 56003 Koblenz Germany Tel: +261 12495 Fax: +261 36572 e-mail: iksr@rz-online.de
Depositary	Government of the Swiss Confederation (Art. 21)
Signature, time and place of adoption	3 December 1976, Bonn
Entry into force	1 February 1979 Art. 17.2: 'Subject to notification by each Contracting party that the required procedures for the entry into force of the Additional Agreement to the Agreement concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution have been completed, this convention shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following receipt of the last notification provided for in the preceding paragraph'
European Community signature and entry into force	3 December 1976; 1 February 1979
Status of participation	Five parties and the European Economic Community
Last Conference of the parties	65 th ICPR Plenary Assembly, 7-8 July 1999, Arnhem, Netherlands
Next Conference of the parties	As this convention is being replaced by the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine, the 65 th Plenary assembly was the last one
Scope of the convention	Geographic scope: the Rhine shall be taken as beginning at its outflow from the Untersee and including the arms, up to the coastline, through which its waters flow freely into the North Sea, inclusive of the Ijssel up to Kampen
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the convention	To eliminate and reduce pollution of the surface waters of the Rhine basin by certain dangerous substances
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties shall take the appropriate measures to (Art. 1): - Eliminate pollution of the surface waters of the Rhine basin by dangerous substances in the families and groups of substances appearing in Annex I. - Reduce the pollution of the Rhine by the dangerous substances in the families and groups of substances appearing in Annex II. The discharge of any Annex II substance likely to affect the quality of Rhine water must be regulated by the national authorities with a view to strictly limiting it (Art. 6.1). The governments which are parties to this convention shall strive to establish, within a period of two years from the entry into force, national programmes for the reduction of the pollution of the Rhine by Annex II substances (Art. 6.2). The contracting parties shall take all legislative and administrative measures to ensure that the storage and deposit of Annex I and II substances is so carried out as to entail no danger of pollution to the Rhine. The contracting parties shall ensure that discharges are monitored in accordance with this convention (Art. 8.1). Each government concerned shall take responsibility at the agreed measuring station on the Rhine for installing and operating measuring systems and apparatus for determining the concentrations of such substances.
Financial issues	Each State pays for the measures implemented in its own country. There is not a common budget under this convention.
Sources on the internet	Http://www.iksr.org/

Reporting obligations under the convention

The governments shall establish a national inventory of discharges into the surface waters of the Rhine basin which may contain substances listed in Annex I and communicate to the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution the contents of their inventories, which shall be regularly updated at intervals not exceeding three years.

Also, the States are obliged to report on programmes drawn up for the reduction of the pollution of the Rhine by Annex II substances and the implementation of these programmes (Art. 6.8).

The contracting parties shall inform the International Commission annually of the experience gained in monitoring discharges (Art. 8.2).

All governments involved shall regularly inform the international Commission of the results of the monitoring level in the Rhine of Annex I and II substances, at least once a year (Art. 10.2).

If a government which is party to this convention detects a sudden considerable increase in Annex I or II substances, or learns of an accident which could seriously threaten the quality of Rhine water, it shall inform the International Commission and the contracting parties (Art. 11).

Art. 12 provides for a general reporting obligation concerning the implementation of the convention. The contracting parties shall regularly inform the International Commission of the experience gained in the course of implementing this convention.

No specific problems are experienced in meeting these reporting obligations. It should however be noted that the 1987 Rhine Action Plan and the Salmon 2000 Programme play a much more prominent role in the work of the ICPR.

NB Please note that the five countries bordering the Rhine, and the European Community, signed the new Convention for the Protection of the Rhine in Bern on 12 April 1999.

At the 12th Conference of the Rhine Ministers, the Ministers adopted a new Convention for the Protection of the Rhine. Once it is ratified (by the year 2000), this convention will be the new basis for international cooperation between the countries bordering the Rhine and the European Union. It will replace the 1963 Bern Convention and the 1976 Chemical Convention.

The new convention fixes the following targets for international cooperation along the Rhine: sustainable development of the Rhine, further improvement of the ecological state, holistic flood protection and defence taking into account ecological requirements, preservation, and improvement and restoration of natural habitats and of the natural stream function.

This target reflects the move to integration in new Rhine policy. In addition to aspects of water quality and quantity, including flood-related problems, ground-water problems relating to the Rhine will in future be included in ICPR-work.

Another important element of the convention is the possibility of associating non-governmental organisations with ICPR work. This decision reaffirms, institutionalises and intensifies the positive exchange of information practised during the last two years. The new convention equally fixes the working and decision-making modalities in the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine. A further interesting development is that Dutch has been added to the two hitherto practised working languages in the Commission.

The ICPR contracting parties have affirmed that they will sign the convention as rapidly as possible once the required national coordination has been carried out. In the meantime the ICPR will conduct its work according to the spirit of the new convention.

1.3. Agreement between the federal republic of Germany and the European economic community, on the one hand, and the republic of Austria, on the other, on cooperation on management of water resources in the Danube basin, statute of the standing committee on management of water resources

Agreement Secretariat	No special Secretariat exists; the Standing Committee on Management of Water is within the German and Austrian Ministries responsible for freshwater protection - Austria: Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Stubenring 12 1010 Vienna, Austria - Germany: Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Reactor Safety Ahrstraße 20 D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Depositary	No separate depositary exists
Signature, time and place of adoption	1 December 1987, Regensburg
Entry into force	1 March 1991 Art. 12.2: 'This agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month in which the documents are exchanged'
European Community signature and entry into force	1 December 1987; 1 March 1991
Status of participation	Two parties and the European Economic Community. Legally binding. Legal basis in Austria: BGBl.Nr 17/1991 of 15 January 1991
Last Conference of the parties	9 th Meeting, 13-14 April 1999
Next Conference of the parties	10 th meeting, 11-12 April 2000
Scope of the agreement	It shall apply to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and to the territory of the Republic of Austria (Art. 8). The agreement shall not apply to questions concerning fisheries and shipping; the treatment of questions concerning the protection of the aquatic environment against pollution shall not, however, be thereby excluded. This agreement shall also apply to the Land of Berlin, insofar as the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany does not make any contrary declaration to the Austrian Federal Government within a period of three months of the entry into force of the agreement.
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aims of the agreement	- To improve the quality of the waters in the Danube Basin forming a common frontier between the Republic of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. - To protect the aquatic environment and ensure the regulation of discharges.
Obligations of the parties	- The contracting parties shall cooperate on water management, in particular, in carrying out water management tasks and implementing the water laws in the German and Austrian Danube Basin (Art. 1). Such cooperation shall take the form of: a) exchange of experience; b) exchange of information on water management regulations and measures; c) exchange of experts; d) exchange of publications, regulations and guidelines; e) participation in scientific and specialist meetings; f) consideration of projects in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or the Republic of Austria which might substantially influence the proper management of water resources in the territory of the other State; g) consultations in the Standing Committee on Management of Water Resources. The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures within their respective legal systems to ensure that projects on stretches of water forming the frontier shall not have a substantial adverse effect on the condition of water resources in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or the Republic of Austria. In the case of projects in all other waters which might have a substantial adverse effect on the condition of water resources in the territory of the other State, the contracting parties shall, at the request of the party concerned, discuss the possibilities of preventing such effects before the projects are carried out.
Financial issues	Shared projects are financed by both countries involving all interested parties.
Sources on the internet	None

Reporting obligations under the agreement

Bilateral cooperation covers all fields of water management; the contracting parties shall notify each other in good time of major projects in the territory of Federal Republic of Germany or Republic of Austria or where such projects might substantially influence the proper management of water resources in the territory of other State (Art.2)

The contracting parties shall inform each other of the bodies responsible for notifying the Standing Committee on Management of Water resources and of the relevant authorities and departments ('The maintenance and achievement of proper management of water resources within the meaning of this agreement shall cover projects relating to: a) protection of the aquatic environment including the groundwater, in particular the prevention of pollution, and the discharge of waste water and heat; b) the maintenance and extension of watercourses which might lead to a change in the river flow, in particular the regulation and flow and damming control of watercourses, defence against high water and ice and interference with the water flow through installations in or on watercourses; c) the utilisation of the aquatic environment including the groundwater, in particular the use of water power and the diversion and abstraction of water; d) hydrography' – Art. 2.2.

1.4. Convention on the international commission for the protection of the Elbe	
Convention Secretariat	Magdeburg, GERMANY Fuerstenwallstr. 20, Postfach 1647/1648, 39006 Tel: +0391 541 4845 e-mail: IKSE.MKOL@online.de
Depositary	Government of Federal Republic of Germany (Art. 18)
Signature, time and place of adoption	8 October 1990, Magdeburg
Entry into force	8 August 1993 Art. 18: 'This convention shall enter into force on the day on which all signatories inform the Federal Republic of Germany as depositary that any preconditions for the entry into force required by the national laws have been fulfilled'
European Community signature and entry into force	8 October 1990; 8 August 1993
Status of participation	European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, Czech Republic
Last Conference of the parties	19-20 October 1999, Dresden, Germany
Next Conference of the parties	24-25 October 2000, Berlin, Germany
Scope of the convention	'This convention shall apply in the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is applicable and under the terms of that Treaty, on the one hand, and in the territory of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, on the other hand' (Art. 3). The convention shall not cover matters relating to the fishing industry and shipping; however, this does not exclude the consideration of matters relating to the protection of the waters against pollution caused by these activities (Art. 1)
Amendments and additional protocols	Protocol to the Convention of 8 October 1990 between the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and European Economic Community on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe
Aim of the convention	To prevent the pollution of the Elbe and its drainage area (Art. 1)
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall, in order to cooperate in the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe, to prevent the pollution of the Elbe and its drainage area, in particular endeavour (Art.1): - To enable use to be made of the river, in particular the obtaining of supplies of drinking water from bank-filtered waters and the agricultural use of the waters and sediments. - To achieve as natural an ecosystem as possible with a healthy diversity of species. - To reduce substantially the pollution of the North Sea from the Elbe area.
Financial issues	Each contracting party shall bear the cost of its representation in the Commission and the working parties and the cost of the current investigations carried out in its territory. All other expenditure arising from the work of the Commission, including the costs of the Secretariat, shall be divided among the contracting parties as established by the convention (Art. 14). In concrete terms, contributions of the contracting parties' governments are Germany 65 %, Czech Republic 32.5 %, European Union 2.5 %.
Sources on the internet	http://www.pik-potsdam.de http://153.96.8.93/servlet/is/1023

1.4.1. Protocol to the convention between the governments of the federal republic of Germany and the Czech (and Slovak) federal republic and the European economic community on the international commission for the protection of the Elbe

Protocol Secretariat	Magdeburg, GERMANY Fuerstenwallstr. 20, Postfach 1647/1648, 39006 Tel: +49-391 541 4845 e-mail: IKSE.MKOL@-online.de
Depositary	Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
Signature, time and place of adoption	9 December 1991, Magdeburg
Entry into force	13 August 1993 Art. 2 'This protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the day on which all signatories have informed the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany as depositary that any preconditions for the entry into force required by national laws have been fulfilled'
European Community signature and entry into force	9 December 1991; 13 August 1993
Status of participation	European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, Czech Federal Republic
Last Conference of the parties	19-20 October 1999, Dresden, Germany
Next Conference of the parties	24-25 October 2000, Berlin, Germany
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the protocol	For the purpose of fulfilment of tasks conferred on it under the convention, the Commission shall have legal capacity in accordance with the law obtaining at the place at which its Secretariat has its headquarters (Art. 1)
Financial issues	Contributions of the contracting parties' governments: Germany 65 %, Czech Republic 32.5 %, European Union 2.5 %
Sources on the internet	http://www.pik-potsdam.de

Reporting obligations under the convention and the protocol

The contracting parties shall inform the Commission of all the basic matters required for the Commission to fulfil its tasks and of the measures taken and the total resources used therefore (Art. 4).

Documents relating to the reporting obligations of the parties:

Final status report on the performance of the measures included in the *'First Action Programme (Urgent Programme)'* for the period 1992-1995.

Status report on the performance of the measures included in the *'Action Programme 1996-2010'* for the period 1996-1997.

Status report on the performance of the urgent ecological measures to protect and enhance biological structures of the Elbe.

Elbe water quality reports etc.

1.5. Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes

Convention Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND Environment and Human Settlements Divisions (ENSHU) Palais des Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 2373/3158 Fax: +41 22 907 0107 e-mail: rainer.enderlein@unece.org
Depository	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 24)
Signature, time and place of adoption	17 March 1992, Helsinki
Entry into force	6 October 1996 Art. 26: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 16 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession'
European Community signature and entry into force	18 March 1992; 6 October 1996
Status of participation	Twenty-five parties. Five signatories without ratification
Last Conference of the parties	First Meeting of the parties, Helsinki, Finland, 2-4 July 1997
Next Conference of the parties	
Scope of the convention	The convention is open to member countries of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the European Union and other European States having consultative status with UN/ECE. It is applicable in the UN/ECE region (Europe and North America)
Amendments and additional protocols	Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, London, 17 June 1999
Aims of the convention	- To strengthen national and international actions aimed at protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary waters, both surface waters and groundwaters, and related ecosystems, including the marine environment. - The prevention, control and reduction of the releases of hazardous, acidifying and eutrophying substances into the aquatic environment. - The promotion of public information and public participation in relevant decision-making processes.
Obligations of the parties	The parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact. The parties shall, in particular, take all appropriate measures (Art.2): a) To prevent, control and reduce pollution of waters causing or likely to cause transboundary impact. b) To ensure that transboundary waters are used with the aim of ecologically sound and rational water management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection. c) To ensure that transboundary waters are used in a reasonable and equitable way, taking into particular account their transboundary character, in the case of activities which cause or are likely to cause transboundary impact. d) To ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems. The parties shall support appropriate international efforts to elaborate rules, criteria and procedures in the field of responsibility and liability (Art.7). The Riparian parties shall on the basis of equality and reciprocity enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements, where these do not yet exist, or adapt existing ones, where necessary, to eliminate any contradictions with the basic principles of this convention, in order to define their mutual relations and conduct regarding the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact (Art.9).
Financial issues	Not applicable
Sources on the internet	Http://www.unece.org/env/water Http://www.waterland.net/riza/imac-water

Reporting obligations under the convention

parties shall report periodically on the implementation of this convention.

The Meeting of the parties shall exchange information regarding experience gained in concluding and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements or other

arrangements regarding the protection and use of transboundary waters to which one or more of the parties is party.

Provisions relating to all parties

According to Art. 6 of the convention parties shall provide for the widest exchange of information, as early as possible, on issues covered by the provisions of this convention:

Parties must establish programmes for monitoring the condition of transboundary waters (Art. 4).

Research and development. The parties shall cooperate in the conduct of research into and development of effective techniques for the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. To this effect, the parties shall, on a bilateral and/or multilateral basis, taking into account research activities pursued in relevant international forums, endeavour to initiate or intensify specific research programmes, where necessary, aimed, inter alia, at:

- a) Methods for the assessment of the toxicity of hazardous substances and the noxiousness of pollutants.
- b) Improved knowledge on the occurrence, distribution and environmental effects of pollutants and the processes involved.
- c) The development and application of environmentally sound technologies, production and consumption patterns.
- d) The phasing out and/or substitution of substances likely to have transboundary impact.
- e) Environmentally sound methods of disposal of hazardous substances.
- f) Special methods for improving the conditions of transboundary waters.
- g) The development of environmentally sound water-construction works and water-regulation techniques.
- h) The physical and financial assessment of damage resulting from transboundary impact.

The results of these research programmes shall be exchanged among the parties.

Provisions relating to Riparian parties

- Joint monitoring and assessment (Art.11). The Riparian parties shall establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impact.
- The Riparian parties shall, at regular intervals, carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken for the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. The results of these assessments shall be made *available to the public* in accordance with the provisions set out in Art. 16 of this convention.

For these purposes, the Riparian parties shall harmonise rules for the setting up and operation of monitoring programmes, measurement systems, devices, analytical techniques, data processing and evaluation procedures, and methods for the registration of pollutants discharged.

- Exchange of information between Riparian parties (Art.13). The Riparian parties shall exchange reasonably available data, inter alia, on:
 - a) Environmental conditions of transboundary waters.
 - b) Experience gained in the application and operation of best available technology and results of research and development.
 - c) Emission and monitoring data.

- d) Measures taken and planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.
 - e) Permits or regulations for wastewater discharges issued by the competent authority or appropriate body.
- Warning and alarm systems (Art.14). The Riparian parties shall without delay inform each other about any critical situation that may have transboundary impact. The Riparian parties shall set up, where appropriate, and operate coordinated or joint communication, warning and alarm systems with the aim of obtaining and transmitting information. These systems shall operate on the basis of compatible data transmission and treatment procedures and facilities to be agreed upon by the Riparian Parties. The Riparian parties shall inform each other about competent authorities or points of contact designated for this purpose.
 - Public information. The Riparian parties shall ensure that information on the conditions of transboundary waters, measures taken or planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, and the effectiveness of those measures, is made available to the public. For this purpose, the Riparian parties shall ensure that the following information is made available to the public:
 - a) Water-quality objectives.
 - b) Permits issued and the conditions required to be met.
 - c) Results of water and effluent sampling carried out for the purposes of monitoring and assessment, as well as results of checking compliance with the water-quality objectives or the permit conditions.The Riparian parties shall ensure that this information is available to the public at all reasonable times for inspection free of charge, and shall provide members of the public with reasonable facilities for obtaining from the Riparian Parties, on payment of reasonable charges, copies of such information.
 - Protection of information is regulated under Art. 8 of the convention.

1.6. Convention on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the river Danube	
Convention Secretariat	Vienna, AUSTRIA IC Permanent Secretariat D 0442 PO Box 500 1400 Vienna, Austria Tel: +43 1 26060 Fax: +43 1 26060 /5895 e-mail: icpdr@unvienna.un.or.at Karin.Zambra@unvienna.un.or.at teun.botterweg@unvienna.un.org.at
Depositary	Government of Romania (Art. 31)
Signature, time and place of adoption	29 June 1994, Sofia
Entry into force	22 October 1998 Art. 27: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90th day following the date of deposit of the ninth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by each State or regional economic integration.'
European Community signature and entry into force	29 June 1994; 22 October 1998
Status of participation	Nine Parties. Eleven signatories without ratification
Last Conference of the parties	27-29 October 1998, Vienna
Next Conference of the parties	30-31 March 2000, Vienna
Scope of the convention	The catchment area of the Danube river which is the hydrological river basin as far as it is shared by the contracting parties (Art. 3 and 1b). The convention is applicable to issues of fishery and inland navigation as far as problems of water protection against pollution caused by these activities are concerned (Art.3).
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the convention	The convention is aimed at achieving sustainable and equitable water management in the Danube basin
Obligations of the parties	The signatories have agreed (Art. 2.1.): - On 'conservation, improvement and the rational use of surface and ground waters in the catchment area'. - 'Control of the hazards originating from accidents involving substances hazardous to water, floods and ice-hazards'. - To 'contribute to reducing the pollution loads of the Black Sea from sources in the catchment area'. Parties shall cooperate on fundamental water management issues by taking: 'all appropriate legal, administrative and technical measures to at least maintain and improve the current environment and water quality conditions of the Danube river and of the waters in its catchment area and to prevent and reduce as far as possible adverse impacts and changes occurring or likely to be caused' (Art. 2.2.)
Financial issues	The International Commission shall adopt an annual or biannual budget. The total amount of the budget shall be contributed by the contracting parties other than the European Union, in equal parts, unless unanimously decided otherwise by the Commission. The European Union shall contribute no more than 2.5 % of the administrative costs to the budget. Each contracting party shall pay the expenses related to the participation in the Commission of its representatives, experts and advisers, and shall carry the costs of the current monitoring and assessment activities carried out in its territory (annex IV, Art. 11).
Sources on the internet	http://www.rec.org/DanubePCU

Reporting obligations under the convention

The forms of cooperation under this convention are consultations and joint activities within the framework of the International Commission, pursuant to the provisions of this convention, and exchange of information on bi and multilateral agreements, legal regulations and measures in the field of water management; exchange of legal documents and directives and other systems for the exchange of information and experience (Art.4).

The contracting parties shall report to the International Commission on basic issues required for the Commission to comply with its tasks (Art. 10).

These reports shall involve:

- a) Reports and documents foreseen in this convention or requested by the Commission.
- b) Information on the existence, conclusion, amendment or withdrawal of bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties regulating the protection and water management of the river Danube and of waters within its catchment area or otherwise relevant.
- c) Information on their respective laws, ordinances and other general regulations, regulating the protection and water management of the river Danube and of waters within its catchment area or otherwise relevant.
- d) Communication, at the latest within an agreed delay after the International Commission has made its decision, on the way, the time-frame and the financial expenses of implementing action-oriented decisions at the domestic level, such as recommendations, programmes and measures.
- e) Designation of competent institutions to be addressed for cooperation in the framework of this convention by the International Commission or by other contracting parties.
- f) Communication on planned activities, which for reason of their character are likely to cause transboundary impacts.

Consultations (Art.11). Having had a prior exchange of information, the contracting parties involved shall at the request of one or several contracting parties concerned enter into consultations on planned activities as referred to in Art. 3 (2). The consultations are usually carried out within the framework of the International Commission.

The contracting parties shall exchange reasonably available data, inter alia on (Art.12):

- a) The general conditions of the riverine environment within the catchment area of the river Danube.
- b) Experience gained in the application and operation of best available techniques and results of research and development.
- c) Emission and monitoring data.
- d) Measures taken and planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.
- e) Regulations for waste water discharges.
- f) Accidents involving substances hazardous to water.

In order to harmonise emission limits, the contracting parties shall undertake the exchange of information on their regulations.

Research and development (Art.16). To further the aims of this convention, the contracting parties shall establish complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research and, in accordance with a procedure to be regulated by the International Commission, transmit to the Commission:

- a) The results of such complementary, joint or other relevant research, the access to which is open for public authorities.
- b) Relevant parts of other programmes of scientific and technical research.

In so doing, the contracting parties shall have regard to the work carried out or supported, in these fields, by the appropriate international organisations and agencies.

Communication, warning and alarm systems, and emergency plans (Art. 16). The contracting parties shall provide for coordinated or joint communication, warning and alarm systems in the basin-wide context to the extent this is necessary to supplement the systems established and operated at a bilateral level. They shall consult on ways and means of harmonising domestic communication, warning and alarm systems and emergency plans.

The contracting parties shall, within the framework of the International Commission, inform each other about competent authorities or points of contact designated for this purpose in case of emergency events such as accidental pollution, other critical water conditions, floods and ice-hazards. Accordingly, the competent authorities shall cooperate to establish joint emergency plans, where necessary, supplementary to existing plans at the bilateral level.

Monitoring programmes are regulated under Art. 9 of the convention, establishing the obligation of the parties to cooperate in the field of monitoring and assessment, aiming at the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impacts. The results will be presented to the public in appropriate publications.

Protection of the information supplied is regulated under Art. 13 (and the information to the public, under Art. 14) of this convention.

1.7. Convention on the international commission for the protection of the Oder against pollution

Convention Secretariat	Wroclaw, POLAND St. Norwida, 34 Tel: +48.71.328.10.61 +48.71.328.15.31 Fax: +48.328.37.11
Depositary	General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Signature, time and place of adoption	11 April 1996, Breslau
Entry into force	28 April 1999 Art. 18.3: 'This convention shall enter into force 30 days after the day on which the last ratification or confirmation deed has been deposited with the depositary. The depositary shall inform the other contracting parties of the date of entry into force'.
European Community accession and entry into force	28 April 1999
Status of participation	European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Poland, Czech Republic
Last Conference of the parties	1 st Plenary Meeting, 2-3 December 1999, Wroclaw, Poland
Next Conference of the parties	Data not available since there is not a published Conference of the parties report
Scope of the convention	This convention shall apply in the territories of the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic and in the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Community is applicable
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the convention	The prevention of pollution of the Oder and the Stettiner Haff, including their drainage areas
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties shall cooperate within the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder against Pollution, hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission', to prevent the pollution of the Oder and the Stettiner Haff, including their drainage areas, hereinafter referred to as 'the Oder'. The objectives of this cooperation shall be in particular: To prevent the pollution of the Oder and the Baltic Sea by contaminants and to achieve a sustained reduction in the pollution thereof. To achieve the most natural aquatic and littoral ecosystems possible with corresponding species diversity. To permit utilisation of the Oder, in particular the production of drinking water from bank filtrate and the use of its water and sediments in agriculture. To achieve these objectives, the contracting parties shall draw up joint action programmes within the Commission with timetables for their implementation. These action programmes may be gradually supplemented as necessary. The contracting parties shall also promote the exchange of modern technologies to prevent and reduce pollution resulting from agreements concluded under civil law.
Financial issues	The contributions to the Commission's budget shall be divided among the contracting parties as follows: a) Federal Republic of Germany: 38.75 % b) Republic of Poland: 38.75 % c) Czech Republic: 20 % d) European Union: 2.5 The Commission's budget shall be made up, apart from the contributions from the contracting parties, of donations, grants, interest receipts and resources from other sources.
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	None
Sources on the internet	None

Reporting obligations under the convention

According to Art. 4 the contracting parties shall inform the Commission within specific periods of time, of the conditions and resources needed to achieve the objectives and of the measures taken and the results thereof.

Section 2. Oceans and seas

2.1 Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic sea area (1974 Helsinki convention)

Convention Secretariat	Helsinki, FINLAND (Art. 14 of the Convention) Helsinki Commission (Helcom) Katajanokanlaituri 6B FIN-00160 Helsinki, Finland Tel: +358 9 6220220 Fax: +358 9 62202239 e-mail: helcom@helcom.fi anne.christine@helcom.fi leena@helcom.fi
Depositary	Government of Finland (Art. 26)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted on 22 March 1974, Helsinki, Finland Open for signature in Helsinki, 22 March 1974, by States participating in the diplomatic conference on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area, Helsinki, 18-22 March 1974 and by the EEC (Art. 26)
Entry into force ⁴	3 May 1980 Art. 27: 'The present convention shall enter into force two months after the deposit of the seventh instrument of ratification or approval. For the European Economic Community acceding to the Convention... shall enter into force two months after the deposit of the instrument of accession'
European Community accession and entry into force	20 September 1994; 20 November 1994
Status of participation	Ten Parties. No signatories without ratification, acceptance, or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	20th Meeting of the Helcom, 22-24 March 1999, Helsinki, Finland
Next Conference of the parties	21st Meeting, 20-22 March 2000, Helsinki, Finland.
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: restricted to the Baltic States which participated in the 1974 Helsinki Conference. Others upon invitation by all the contracting parties. Membership open explicitly to the European Community (Art. 26). Geographic scope: regional. The convention covers the Baltic Sea proper, with the Gulf of Bothnia, the Gulf of Finland and the entrance to the Baltic Sea. Internal waters are not included (Art. 1).
Amendments and additional protocols	Amendments adopted by the Helcom to the annexes of the Convention, in 1983, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1998.
Aim of the convention	To prevent and abate pollution and to protect and enhance the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area (Art. 31)
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures in order to prevent and abate pollution and to protect and enhance the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. The contracting parties shall use their best endeavours to ensure that the implementation of the present convention shall not cause an increase in the pollution of sea areas outside the Baltic Sea area (Art. 3). The contracting parties shall (Arts 5-11): - Prevent and control pollution from various sources, including pollution from land-based sources, from disposal of wastes at sea by ships or through dumping, and from sea-bed activities. - Counteract the introduction of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea as specified by Annex I. - Take all appropriate measures and cooperate according to Annex 6 in order to eliminate or minimise pollution of the Baltic Sea area by oil or other harmful substances (Art. 11). - The contracting parties shall, subject to paragraphs 2 and 4 of Art. 9, prohibit dumping in the Baltic Sea (Art. 9). - The contracting parties shall take special measures in order to abate harmful effects on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area of pleasure craft activities. - Each contracting party shall take all appropriate measures in order to prevent pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area resulting from the exploitation of its part of the sea-bed and its subsoil or from any associated activities thereon.

⁴ Although at the closure of elaboration of these summary boxes this Convention was in force, by the time of their publication, the 1992 Helsinki Convention will have replaced the former.

Financial issues	<p>The Commission shall adopt an annual or biennial budget of the proposed expenditure and an estimated budget for the fiscal period following thereafter (Art. 15).</p> <p>The monies for the budget originate in principle from equal contributions from the contracting parties other than the European Community, as well as an extra contribution by Finland as the host country.</p>
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	<p>Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1992 Helsinki Convention); this 1974 Helsinki Convention shall cease to apply once the new convention is in force.</p> <p>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), where the Baltic Sea is defined as a 'special area' necessitating strict discharge restrictions.</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)</p> <p>Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)</p> <p>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</p> <p>International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC)</p> <p>International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)</p> <p>International Maritime Organisation (IMO)</p> <p>OSPAR Commission (OSPAR)</p> <p>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO)</p> <p>World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organisations</p> <p>Baltic Ports Organisation (BPO)</p> <p>The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)</p> <p>BirdLife International</p> <p>Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)</p> <p>The Oil Industry International Exploration & Production Forum (E&P Forum)</p> <p>European Chlor-Alkali Industry (EURO CHLOR)</p> <p>European Community Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)</p> <p>European Dredging Association (EuDA)</p> <p>European Fertiliser Manufacturers' Association (EFMA)</p> <p>European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC)</p> <p>International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)</p> <p>International Network for Environment Management (INEM)</p> <p>Standing Conference of Rectors, Residents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities (CRE)</p> <p>Stitching Greenpeace Council, Greenpeace International</p> <p>Union of the Baltic Cities (UCB) (http://www.ubc.net/)</p> <p>World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF International.</p> <p>Baltic Farmers Forum</p> <p>Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding with the European Environment Agency.</p>
Sources on the internet	http://www.helcom.fi

Reporting obligations under the convention

Compliance is controlled by means of obligatory reporting according to a unified procedure, as well as by regular pollution load compilation projects and emission inventories. Parties also report according to unified reporting systems on the progress and measures in their respective countries regarding implementation.

Although the 1974 Helsinki Convention does not establish the reporting obligations of the contracting parties, reporting procedures are used within the different working groups (Environmental, Technological, Maritime and Combating Committees) either in connection with the adoption of separate Helcom Recommendation or/and as an overall reporting format.

For the use of the Maritime Committee (sea-based Pol. Group) the most recent reporting format was adopted by Helcom in 1996, with some slight refinements adopted in 1999, reflecting the procedures laid down in Art. 16 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention. Nearly all contracting parties have reported on the implementation of all Helcom recommendations in the maritime field.

For the use of the Combating Committee the most recent reporting format was adopted by Helcom in 1997 also reflecting the procedure laid down in Art. 16 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention. Two contracting parties are reporting annually to the meeting of the Combating Committee, meaning that every fifth year the reporting round will start all over again.

The reports are private, but a compiled report was available in March 1998, Rules of Procedure Rule 3.5. The documents submitted for consideration of the Commission shall be made available to the public, upon request, unless the Commission decides otherwise or the author of the document objects.

The appropriate national authorities are obliged to inform the Commission of the quantity, quality, and method of discharge of substances listed in Annex 2, in respect of land-based pollution (Art. 6).

Only dumping of dredged spoils is permitted, and such dumping activities, as well as emergency dumping, are also reported to the Commission.

The parties are required to develop and apply a system for receiving, channelling, and despatching reports on significant spillages of oil or other harmful substances.

The parties must also provide information to the other parties about their national organisations and regulations on combating pollution at the sea oil.

2.2. Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic sea area (1992 Helsinki convention)

Convention Secretariat	Helsinki, FINLAND Helsinki Commission (Helcom) Katajanokanlaituri 6B FIN-00160, Finland Tel: +358 9 6220220 Fax: +358 9 62202239 e-mail: helcom@helcom.fi anne.christine@helcom.fi leena@helcom.fi
Depository	Government of Finland (Art. 38 of the Convention)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted on 9 April 1992, Helsinki, Finland. Open for signature in Helsinki from 9 April until 9 October 1992, by States and by the European Economic Community participating in the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Helsinki, 9 April 1992 (Art. 34).
Entry into force	This convention enters into force 17 January 2000. Art. 36: 'The convention shall enter into force two months after the deposit of the instruments of ratification or approval by all signatory States bordering the Baltic Sea and by the European Economic Community'.
European Community signature and entry into force	24 September 1992. 17 January 2000.
Status of participation	Seven States and the European Community have ratified. Two signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	20 th meeting, 22-24 March 1999. 21 st meeting, 20-22 March 2000(as well as an extraordinary meeting, 6-7 September 1999 in Helsinki)
Next Conference of the parties	
Scope of the convention	- Legal scope: restricted to the States and the European Community which participated in the 1992 Helsinki Conference. Others upon invitation by all the contracting parties (Art. 35). - Geographic scope: regional. The convention covers the Baltic Sea and the entrance of the Baltic Sea bounded by the parallel of the Skaw in the Skagerrak at 57°44.43'N. Internal Waters are included (Art. 1).
Amendments and additional protocols	- Council Decision of 21 February 1994 on the conclusion on behalf of the Community, of the Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area. - Amendment to the Annexes of the Convention, 1998.
Aim of the convention	- To prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea area and the preservation of its ecological balance (Art. 3.1).
Obligations of the parties	The parties shall (Art. 3): - Take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures to prevent and eliminate pollution. - Apply the precautionary principle, i.e. take preventive measures when there are reasons to assume that substances or energy introduced, directly or indirectly, may create hazards in the marine environment to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities, or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea, even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between inputs and their alleged effects. - Promote the use of the best environmental practice (BEP) and the best available technology (BAT). If the reduction of inputs, resulting from the use of BEP and BAT, as described in Annex II, does not lead to environmentally acceptable results, additional measures shall be applied. - Apply the polluter-pays principle. - Ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions from point sources to water and air, and of inputs from diffuse sources to water and air, are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the environment of the Baltic Sea area and ascertain the implementation of the Convention. - Use best endeavours to ensure that the implementation of the convention does not cause transboundary pollution in areas outside of the Baltic Sea area. Furthermore, the relevant measures shall not lead to unacceptable environmental strains either on air quality and the atmosphere or on the waters, soil, and groundwater. Nor shall they lead to unacceptably harmful or increasing risks to human health. - The contracting party shall notify the Commission and any contracting party which may be affected by a transboundary impact on the Baltic Sea area (Art. 7).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The contracting parties shall develop and apply uniform requirements for the provision of reception facilities for ship-generated wastes(Art. 8). - The contracting parties shall take special measures in order to abate harmful effects on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area of pleasure craft activities (Art. 9). - The contracting parties shall prohibit incineration in the Baltic Sea (Art. 10). The contracting parties shall, subject to paragraphs 2 and 4 of Art. 11, prohibit dumping in the Baltic Sea (Art. 11). - Each contracting party shall take all appropriate measures in order to prevent pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area resulting from the exploitation of its part of the sea-bed and its subsoil or from any associated activities thereon as well as to ensure that adequate preparedness is maintained for immediate response actions against pollution incidents caused by such activities (Art. 12). <p>The contracting parties shall individually and jointly take all appropriate measures (arts14 and 15):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To maintain adequate ability and to respond to pollution incidents. - To conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes.
Financial issues	The Commission shall adopt an annual or biennial budget when the convention enters into force (Art. 22). The total amount of the annual budget, including any supplementary budget adopted by the Commission, shall be contributed by the parties, other than the European Community, in equal parts, unless unanimously decided otherwise by the Commission.
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	
Sources on the internet	Http://www.helcom.fi

Reporting obligations under the Convention

Each party shall implement the provisions of the convention within its territories, sea and internal waters through its national authorities.

Parties shall report to the Commission at regular intervals on (Art. 16):

- The legal, regulatory or other measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.
- The effectiveness of the measures taken to implement the provisions referred to in paragraph above.
- Problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions referred to in the paragraph above and information on discharge permits and emission data on environmental quality, as far as available.

On the request of a party or of the Commission, the parties shall provide information on discharge permits, emission data, or data on environmental quality, as far as available.

Whenever a pollution incident is likely to cause pollution to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area outside its territory, the contracting party shall notify without delay such contracting parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected (Art. 7).

NB: See Reporting Obligations under the 1974 Helsinki Convention.

2.3. Convention for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources (Paris convention)

Convention Secretariat	London, UNITED KINGDOM Paris Commission (PARCOM) New Court, 48 Carey Street London WC2A 2JQ, United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 7430 5200 Fax: +44 (0)20 7430 5225 e-mail: OSPAR@compuserve.com Secretariat@ospar.org
Depository	The Government of the French Republic (art 29)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted on 4 June 1974, Paris, France. Open for signature in Paris, from 4 June 1974 to 30 June 1975 (Art. 22).
Entry into force	6 May 1978. Art. 25: 'The present convention shall come into force on the 30 th day following the date of deposit of the seventh instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession' This convention has been replaced by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, 1992, but decisions, recommendations and all other agreements adopted under the convention will continue to be applicable, unaltered in their legal nature, unless they are terminated by new measures adopted under the 1992 OSPAR Convention.
European Community signature and entry into force	23 June 1975; 6 May 1978.
Status of participation	Thirteen Parties, including the European Economic Community, by 1 December 1997. One signatory, without ratification, acceptance, or approval.
Scope of the convention	- Legal scope: membership is based on the States specified by the convention (Art. 22) (States invited to the diplomatic conference on the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources, Paris and the ECC); others may accede following a unanimous invitation to do so from the contracting parties (Art. 24). - Geographic scope: regional, related to the North-East Atlantic, including the North Sea. It covers the high seas, and the territorial waters and the saline internal waters of the contracting parties. Covers the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans north of latitude 36°N, east of longitude 42°W and west of longitude 51°E, excluding the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas (Art. 2).
Amendments and additional protocols	- Amending Protocol, Paris 1986. Entered into force in September 1989. The objective of this protocol was to extend the convention to include the prevention of pollution of the atmosphere by emissions from land or from man-made structures. PARCOM Recommendation 89/2 on the use of the best available technology (BAT), was adopted by the Commission in 1989. The parties agreed that BAT should be applied in the programmes and measures adopted under the Convention. PARCOM Recommendation 91/1 on the definition of best environmental practice (BEP), was adopted by the Commission in 1991. By using the best environmental practice, parties are required to minimise or eliminate inputs from diffuse sources.
Aim of the convention	To take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the sea by adopting measures to combat marine pollution and by harmonising the parties policies in this regard (Art. 1).
Obligations of the parties	- The contracting parties undertake (Art. 4-5): To eliminate pollution of the maritime area from land-based sources. To limit strictly pollution of the maritime area from land-based sources. - In order to carry out the undertakings, the contracting parties shall implement programmes and measures: For the elimination of pollution of the maritime area from land-based sources. For the reduction or elimination of pollution of the maritime area from land-based sources. - The contracting parties shall endeavour to reduce existing pollution and forestall any new pollution from land-based sources (Art. 6). - Additionally the contracting parties agree (Arts 7 and 10): To apply the measures they adopt in such a way as to avoid increasing pollution in the seas outside the area as well as in the maritime area covered by the Convention. To establish complementary or joint programmes of scientific and technical research.
Financial issues	The annual budget of the Paris Commission is met by funds supplied by the contracting parties to the Convention.

Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	This convention and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (1972, Oslo Convention), have been modernised and amalgamated into a new Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), Paris, 1992.
Sources on the internet	http://www.ospar.org

Reporting obligations under the Convention

National reports are submitted on a wide range of topics by all contracting parties (though not all parties submit reports on all topics) according to agreed timetables. Data submitted are generally complete. The reports are public. The relevant specialist subsidiary body of the Commission and subsequently the Paris Commission itself (which includes NGO observers), reviews data or information in the national reports. These reviews are public and the Secretariat of the Commission distributes lists of such reviews.

A permanent monitoring system is regulated by Art. 11 of the Convention, allowing the earliest possible assessment of the existing level of marine pollution and the assessment of the effectiveness of measures for the reduction of marine pollution from land-based sources under the terms of the present Convention.

For this purpose the contracting parties are required to inform the Commission of the legislative and administrative measures they have taken to ensure compliance with the provisions of the convention (Art. 12).

They are also required to transmit to the Commission, in accordance with a standard procedure, the results of monitoring and the most detailed information available on the substances listed in the Annexes to the convention (Art.17).

2.3.1. Protocol amending the convention for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources

Protocol Secretariat	London, UNITED KINGDOM Paris Commission (PARCOM) New Court, 48 Corey Street London, WC2A 2JQ United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 7430 5200 Fax: +44 (0)20 7430 5225 e-mail: OSPAR@compurserve.com
Depositary	The Government of the French Republic (Art. 6.5)
Signature, time and place of adoption	26 March 1986, Paris
Entry into force	1 September 1989 Art. VI: 'This protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the last of the contracting parties referred to in Art. IV of this protocol has deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession' This protocol has been replaced by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, 1992.
European Community signature and entry into force	30 June 1986; 1 September 1989.
Status of participation	Twelve Parties
Scope of the protocol	The same as the Convention
Obligations of the parties	contracting parties shall have the same obligations established under the Convention, extended to the marine atmosphere.
Aim of the protocol	To extend the convention to include the prevention of pollution in the atmosphere by emissions from land or from man-made structures
Sources on the internet	http://www.ospar.org

Reporting obligations under the convention

These are the same as those established under the convention but extended to the marine atmosphere.

2.4. Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic

Convention Secretariat	London, UNITED KINGDOM (Same Secretariat as the Oslo and Paris Conventions) Paris Commission (PARCOM) New Court, 48 Carey Street London WC2A 2JQ United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 7430 5200 Fax: +44 (0)20 7430 5225 e-mail: secretariat@ospar.org .
Depositary	Government of the French Republic (Art. 27)
Signature, time and place of adoption	22 September 1992, Paris
Entry into force	25 March 1998 Art. 29: 'The convention shall enter into force on the 30 th day following the date on which all contracting parties to the Oslo Convention and all contracting parties to the Paris Convention have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession' Upon its entry into force the convention has replaced the Oslo and Paris Conventions, but decisions, recommendations and all other agreements adopted under those Conventions will continue to be applicable, unaltered in their legal nature, unless they are terminated by new measures adopted under the 1992 OSPAR Convention
European Community signature and entry into force	22 September 1992; 25 March 1998
Status of participation	Sixteen signatories including the European Community. The convention has been signed and ratified by all of the contracting parties to the Oslo or Paris Conventions.
Last Conference of the parties	Ospar Commission 21-24 June 1999, Kingston-upon-Hull, United Kingdom
Next Conference of the parties	Ospar Commission, June 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark
Scope of the convention	The convention is open to the Oslo Convention and Paris Convention contracting parties, any other coastal State bordering the maritime area, any State located upstream on watercourses reaching the maritime area, or any regional economic integration organisation having a member State to which the above refer (Art. 25)
Amendments and additional protocols	
Aims of the Convention	To safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, to restore marine areas which have been adversely affected. To take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and enact the measures necessary to protect the sea area against the adverse effects of human activities.
Obligations of the parties	- contracting parties shall: Take, individually or jointly, all necessary steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from land-based sources, in particular as provided for by Annex I of the Convention; by dumping or incineration of wastes or other matter, in particular as provided for by Annex II; and from offshore sources, in particular as provided for in Annex III. Moreover, contracting parties shall cooperate in protecting the maritime area against pollution from other sources. To take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve maritime ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected. Thus, contracting parties shall, individually and jointly, adopt programmes and measures and shall harmonise their policies and strategies. - According to Art. 6 parties shall: a) undertake and publish at regular intervals joint assessments of the quality status of the marine environment and of its development, for the marine area, or for regions or subregions thereof; b) include in such assessments both an evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken and planned for the protection of the marine environment and the identification of priorities for action.
Linkages with other environmental or general agreements	
Financial issues	The Commission shall adopt a budget which shall contain all planned expenditure and estimated revenue and include the contributions of the contracting parties for that financial year.
Sources on the internet	http://www.ospar.org

Reporting obligations under the convention

The legal basis of reporting by contracting parties can be found in Art. 22 of the OSPAR Convention. OSPAR established a 'Standard Implementation Reporting and Assessment Procedure' to guide contracting parties in their reporting. This document is updated on a regular basis.

The contracting parties shall report to the Commission at regular intervals on (Art. 22):

- a) The legal, regulatory, or other measures taken by them for the implementation of the provisions of the convention and of decisions and recommendations adopted thereunder, including in particular measures taken to prevent and punish conduct in contravention of those provisions.
- b) The effectiveness of the measures referred to in subparagraph a).
- c) Problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions referred to in subparagraph a).

Additionally the contracting parties shall establish complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research and, in accordance with a standard procedure, transmit to the Commission (Art.8):

- a) The results of such complementary, joint or other relevant research.
- b) Details of other relevant programmes of scientific and chemical research.

The contracting parties concerned shall enter into consultation, at the request of any of them, when pollution originating from a contracting party is likely to prejudice the interests of one or more of the other contracting parties to the convention (Art.21).

The Commission will:

1. Assess reports of contracting parties on the implementation of programmes and measures adopted under the Convention.
According to this provision PRAM (Programmes and Measures Committee) 1999 adopted a revised Standard Implementation Reporting and Assessment Procedure. In accordance with the timetable specified in this procedure, contracting parties are required to submit reports on their implementation of OSPAR decisions and recommendations. These national implementation reports will be summarised by lead countries with a view to being assessed by the appropriate OSPAR subsidiary body and, as appropriate, published by OSPAR.
2. Assess the effectiveness of these programmes and measures with a view to improving the protection of the marine environment.

Most decisions and recommendations applicable under OSPAR have, in addition to a format for reporting on compliance, a dedicated implementation report format to assess their effectiveness.

The draft overview assessments of implementation reports prepared by lead countries are intended to give an indication, where appropriate, of the effectiveness of the measure in quantifiable terms with respect to the fields addressed by the measure, such as trends in discharges, emissions and losses of relevant contaminants from the source/sector concerned.

OSPAR 1999 agreed to publish a series of overview assessments of implementation reports for the following measures:

- a) PARCOM Decision 92/1 on the Reduction of Discharges of Chlorinated Organic Substances from the Production of Bleached Kraft and Sulphite Pulp.

- b) PARCOM Recommendation 92/4 on the Reduction of Emissions from the Electroplating Industry.
- c) PARCOM Recommendation 92/7 on the Reduction of Nutrient Inputs from Agriculture into Areas where these Inputs are Likely, Directly or Indirectly, to Cause Pollution.
- d) PARCOM Recommendation 93/4 on the Phasing Out of Cationic Detergents DTDMAC, DSDMAC and DHTDMAC in Fabric Softeners.
- e) PARCOM Recommendation 94/4 on Best Available Techniques for the Organic Chemical Industry.
- f) PARCOM Decision 96/3 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals.

The Ministerial Meeting where the OSPAR Convention was signed also issued an action plan for the OSPAR Commission, with a commitment to prepare the first quality status report for the whole of the North-East Atlantic by the year 2000 (QSR 2000).

The term 'OSPAR Commission' is also used to refer to the former Oslo and Paris Commissions. The previous 1972 Oslo and 1974 Paris Conventions were merged and replaced by the 1992 OSPAR Convention when it entered into force on 25 March 1998.

2.5. Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona convention)

Convention Secretariat	Athens, GREECE Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue Athens, Greece 11635 Tel: +301 727 3100 Fax: +301 725 3196/197 e-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Depositary	Government of Spain
Signature, time and place of adoption	Opened for signature in Barcelona, 16 February 1976, and in Madrid from 17 February 1976 to 16 February 1977. Barcelona, 16 February 1976.
Entry into force	12 February 1978 Art. 27: 'The convention shall enter into force on the same date as the protocol first entering into force'
European Community signature and entry into force	13 September 1976; 15 April 1978
Status of participation	Twenty-one Parties. No signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	Eleventh ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, 27-30 October 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Monte Carlo, November 2001
Scope of the convention	Geographic scope: the Mediterranean Sea area shall mean the maritime waters, including its gulfs and seas, bounded to the west by the meridian passing through Cape Spartel lighthouse, at the entrance of the Strait of Gibraltar, and to the east by the southern limits of the Strait of the Dardanelles between the Mehmetcik and Kumkale lighthouses. Internal waters of the contracting parties (Art. 1) are not included.
Amendments and additional protocols	Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995. Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, Barcelona 1976. An amendment was adopted in Barcelona 10 June 1995. Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Case of Emergency, Barcelona 1976. Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, Athens 1980. An amendment was adopted in Syracuse, 7 March 1996. Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity, Barcelona, June 1995 (Not yet in force) Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, Madrid 1994. (Not yet in force) Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Izmir, 1996. (Not yet in force)
Aim of the convention	To achieve international cooperation for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the protection and enhancement of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean area.
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties (Art.4): Shall take all appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of the convention and the protocols in force to which they are party. Shall cooperate in the formulation and adoption of protocols, in addition to the protocols opened for signature at the same time as this convention, prescribing agreed measures, procedures and standards for the implementation of this convention. Shall further pledge themselves to promote, within the international bodies considered to be competent by the contracting parties, measures concerning the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea area from all sources of pollution.
Financial issues	The contracting parties shall adopt financial rules, prepared in consultation with UNEP Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MEDU, to determine, in particular, their financial participation (Art. 18).
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	All the conventions within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme: -Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, Bucharest, 1992.

-Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena de Indias, 1983.
-Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, Nairobi, 1985.
-Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of Marine Environment from Pollution, Kuwait, 1976.
-Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, Jeddah, 1982.
-Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, Noumea, 1986.
-Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific, Lima, 1981.
-Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan, 1981.

Sources on the internet

<http://www.sedac.ciesin.org>

<http://www.unepmap.org>

Reporting obligations under the convention

The contracting parties designate the United Nations Environment Programme as responsible for carrying out some secretariat-like reporting functions, such as the transmission to the contracting parties of notifications, reports and other information received, in accordance with Arts 3, 9 and 20 (Art. 13 ii).

Copies of the bilateral or multilateral agreements, including regional or subregional agreements, between contracting parties, for the protection of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, shall be communicated to MEDU (Art. 3).

Any contracting party that becomes aware of any pollution emergency in the Mediterranean Sea, shall, without delay, notify the organisation and either through the organisation or directly, any contracting party likely to be affected by such emergency (Art. 9.2).

The parties shall transmit to the organisation reports of measures adopted in the implementation of this convention and of the protocols to which they are Parties, in such form and at such intervals as the Meeting of the contracting parties may determine (Art. 20).

2.5.1. Protocol concerning cooperation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean sea by oil and other harmful substances in case of emergency

Protocol Secretariat	Athens, GREECE Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue Athens, Greece 11635 Tel: +301 727 3100 Fax: +301 725 3196/197 e-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Depositary	Spanish Government
Signature, time and place of adoption	16 February 1976, Barcelona, Spain
Entry into force	12 February 1978 (Art. 13)
European Community signature and entry into force	13 September 1976; 11 September 1981
Status of participation	Twenty-one Parties. No signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	Eleventh ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, 27-30 October 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Monte Carlo, November 2001
Scope of the protocol	The Mediterranean Sea area shall mean the maritime waters, including its gulfs and seas, bounded to the west by the meridian passing through Cape Spartel lighthouse, at the entrance of the Strait of Gibraltar, and to the east by the southern limits of the Strait of the Dardanelles between the Mehmetcik and Kumkale lighthouses. Internal waters of the contracting parties are not included (Art. 1).
Amendments	None
Aim of the protocol	To combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil or other harmful substances in cases of emergency.
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties to this protocol shall cooperate in taking the necessary measures in case of grave and imminent danger to the marine environment, the coast or related interests of one or more of the parties, due to the presence of massive quantities of oil or other harmful substances resulting from accidental causes or an accumulation of small discharges which are polluting or threatening to pollute the sea within the geographical area of the convention. The parties shall endeavour to maintain and promote their contingency plans and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances (Art.3) and they shall develop and apply monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea area (Art. 4). The parties shall also cooperate, as far as practicable, in the salvage and recovery of harmful substances in packages, freight containers, portable tanks or road and rail tank wagons, released or lost overboard, so as to reduce the danger of pollution of the marine environment (Art. 5).
Financial issues	The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to Art. 18 of the convention shall apply with respect to this protocol, unless the parties to this protocol agree otherwise (Art. 13)
LINKAGES WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OR GENERAL CONVENTION	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil, 1973
Sources on the internet	http://www.sedac.ciesin.org http://www.unepmap.org

Reporting obligations under the protocol

Each party undertakes the dissemination to the other parties of information concerning (Art. 6.1):

- a) The competent national organisation or authorities responsible for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances.
- b) The competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties.

- c) New ways in which pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances may be avoided; new measures to combat pollution and the development of related research programmes.

Parties which have agreed to exchange information directly between themselves shall nevertheless communicate such information to the regional centre. The latter shall communicate this information to the other parties and, on a basis of reciprocity, to coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea area which are not parties to this protocol (Art.6.2).

Each party shall require the masters of ships flying its flag and pilots of aircraft registered in its territory to report using the quickest and most adequate channels in those circumstances, and in accordance with Annex I to this protocol (see below), either to a party or to the regional centre:

- a) All accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil or other harmful substances.
- b) The presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil or other harmful substances observed at sea which are likely to present a serious and imminent threat to the marine environment or to the coast or to related interests of one or more of the parties.

The information collected in accordance with paragraph 1 shall be communicated to the other parties likely to be affected by that pollution: a) by the party which has received the information, either directly or, preferably, through the regional centre; or b) by the regional centre. And in case of direct communication between Parties, the regional centre shall be informed of the measures taken by these parties (Art. 8).

‘Annex: Contents of the report to be made pursuant to Art. 8 to this protocol

1. Each report shall, as far as possible, contain, in general:

- a) a) The identification of the source of pollution (identity of the ship, where appropriate).
- b) The geographic position, time and date of the occurrence or observation of the incident;
- c) The wind and sea conditions prevailing in the area.
- d) Relevant details respecting the condition of the ship.

2. Each report shall contain, whenever possible, in particular:

- a) a) A clear indication or description of the harmful substances involved, including the correct technical names of such substances (trade names should not be used in place of the correct technical names).
- b) A statement or estimate of the quantities, concentrations and likely conditions of harmful substances discharged or likely to be discharged into the sea.
- c) Where relevant, a description of the packaging and identifying marks.
- d) The name of the consignor, consignee or manufacturer.

3. Each report shall clearly indicate, whenever possible, whether the harmful substance discharged or likely to be discharged is oil or a noxious liquid, solid or gaseous substance and whether such substance was or is carried in bulk or contained in packaged form, freight containers, portable tanks, or road and rail tank wagons.

4. Each report shall be supplemented, as necessary, by any relevant information requested by a recipient of the report or deemed appropriate by the person sending the report.

5. Any of the persons referred to in Art. 8, paragraph 1 of this protocol shall:

- a) a) Supplement, as far as possible, the initial report, as necessary, with information concerning further developments.

- b) Comply as fully as possible with requests from affected States for additional information’.

A Regional Information System was created in the 1990s under the Pollution Reporting System (POLREP) recommended by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). It is to be used within the framework of the Emergency Protocol.

2.5.2 Protocol for the prevention and elimination of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft

Protocol Secretariat	Athens, GREECE Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue Athens, Greece 11635 Tel: +301 727 3100 Fax: +301 725 3196/197 e-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Depositary	Spanish Government
Signature, time and place of adoption	16 February 1976, Barcelona, Spain
Entry into force	12 February 1978 (Art. 15)
European Community signature and entry into force	13 September 1976; 15 April 1978
Status of participation	Twenty-one Parties. No signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval
Last Conference of the parties	Eleventh ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, 27-30 October 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Monte Carlo, November 2001
Scope of the protocol	Geographic scope: The Mediterranean Sea area shall mean the maritime waters, including its gulfs and seas, bounded to the west by the meridian passing through Cape Spartel lighthouse, at the entrance of the Strait of Gibraltar, and to the east by the southern limits of the Strait of the Dardanelles between the Mehmetcik and Kumkale lighthouses. Internal waters of the contracting parties are not included (Art. 1).
Amendments and additional protocols	An amendment was adopted in Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995. (Not yet in force)
Aim of the protocol	To prevent and abate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea area caused by dumping from ships and aircraft
Obligations of the parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each party shall designate its competent authorities to issue the special and general permits provided for in Arts 5 and 6 of the protocol, and shall keep records of: a) nature and quantities of the wastes or other substances/matter permitted to be dumped; and b) the location, date and method of the dumping (Art. 10). • Each party shall apply the measures required to implement this protocol to all a) ships and aircraft registered in its territory or flying its flag; b) ships and aircraft loading in its territory wastes or other matter which are to be dumped; c) ships and aircraft believed to be engaged in dumping in areas under its jurisdiction in this matter (Art. 11). • Parties shall issue instructions to its maritime inspection ships and aircraft and to other appropriate services to report to its authorities any incidents or conditions in the Mediterranean Sea area which give rise to suspicions that dumping in contravention of the provisions of this protocol has occurred or is about to occur (Art. 12).
Financial issues	The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to Art. 18 of the convention shall apply with respect to this protocol, unless the parties to this protocol agree otherwise (Art. 15).
Linkages with other environmental or general protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, 1976 • Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, London, 1972
Sources on the internet	http://www.sedac.ciesin.org http://www.unepmap.org

Reporting obligations under the protocol

MEDU shall receive records of permits granted under Art. 7 of the protocol (special and general permits issued after careful consideration of all factors set forth in Annex III: A. Characteristics and composition of the matter dumped at sea; B. Characteristics of dumping site and method of deposit; C. General considerations and conditions (Art. 7)).

Dumping that has not been made under provisions of Arts 4, 5 and 6 of the protocol (because of force majeure due to stress of weather or any other when human life or the safety of a ship or aircraft is threatened), shall immediately be reported to the organisation or directly to any party or parties likely to be affected, together with full details of the circumstances and/or nature and quantities of the wastes or other matter dumped (Art. 8).

If a party in a critical situation of exceptional nature considers that wastes or other matter listed in Annex I to this protocol cannot be disposed off on land without unacceptable danger or risk to the safety of human life, that party shall forthwith consult the organisation. The organisation, after consulting the parties to this protocol, shall recommend methods of storage or the most satisfactory means of destruction or disposal under the prevailing circumstances. The party shall inform the organisation of the steps adopted in pursuance of these recommendations. The parties pledge themselves to assist one another in such situations (Art. 9).

2.5.3 Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution from land-based sources

Protocol's secretariat	Athens, GREECE Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue Athens, Greece 11635 Tel: +301 727 3100 Fax: +301 725 3196/197 e-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Depository	Spanish Government
Signature, time and place of adoption	Open for signature in Athens from 17 May to 16 June 1980; and in Madrid from 17 June 1980 to 16 May 1981 (Art. 16) Adoption in Athens, Greece, 17 May 1980
Entry into force	June 17, 1983 Art. 16: This protocol shall enter into force on the 30 th day following the deposit of, at least, six instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, the protocol by any State invited to the conference of plenipotentiaries of the coastal States of the Mediterranean region for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution from land-based sources, Athens 12-17 May 1980
European Community signature and entry into force	17 May 1980; 7 October 1983
Status of participation	Twenty-one Parties No signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval
Last Conference of the parties	Eleventh ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, 27-30 October 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Monte Carlo, November 2001
Scope of the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic scope: the Mediterranean Sea area as defined in Art. 1 of the convention; waters on the landward side of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of watercourses, up to the freshwater limit and saltwater marshes communicating with the sea (Art. 3). • Legal scope: this protocol shall apply to: a) pollution discharges reaching the protocol area from land-based sources; b) pollution from land-based sources transported by the atmosphere; and c) pollution discharges from fixed man-made offshore structures which are under the jurisdiction of a party with other purposes than exploration and exploitation of mineral resources of the continental shelf and the seabed and its sub-soil (Art. 4).
Amendments and additional protocols	Amendment adopted in Syracuse, 7 March 1996
Aim of the protocol	To prevent, abate, combat and control pollution of the Mediterranean Sea area by discharges from rivers, coastal establishments or outfalls, or emanating from any other land-based sources within their territories
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall elaborate and implement, jointly or individually, as appropriate, the necessary programmes and measures (including common emission standards and standards for use) in order to eliminate pollution of the Protocol area from land-based sources by substances listed in Annex I of this protocol (Art. 5), and in order to limit pollution from land-based sources in the Protocol area by substances or sources listed in Annex II (Art. 5 and 6). Parties shall progressively formulate and adopt, in cooperation with the competent international organisations, common guidelines and, as appropriate, standards or criteria dealing specifically with several elements detailed in Art. 7. They shall cooperate as far as possible in scientific and technological fields related to pollution from land-based sources, particularly on research on inputs, pathways and effects of pollutants and on the development of new methods for their treatment, reduction or elimination (Art. 9). The contracting parties shall cooperate in order to formulate and, as far as possible, implement programmes of assistance for developing countries, particularly in the fields of science, education and technology, with a view of preventing pollution from land-based sources in the marine environment (Art. 10).
Financial issues	The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to Art. 18 of the convention shall be applied with respect to this protocol (Art. 16)
Linkages with other environmental or	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution,

general protocols	1976
Sources on the internet	http://www.sedac.ciesin.org http://www.unepmap.org/

Reporting obligations under the protocol

The parties shall inform one another through the organisation about measures taken, results achieved and, if the case arises, other difficulties encountered in the application of this protocol. Procedures for the collection and submission of such information shall be determined at the meetings of the parties. Such information shall include inter alia (Art. 13):

- a) Statistical data on the authorisations granted in accordance with Art. 6 of this protocol.
- b) Data resulting from monitoring as provided for in Art. 8 of this protocol.
- c) Quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories.
- d) Measures taken in accordance with Arts 5 and 6 of this protocol.

2.5.4. Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas

Convention Secretariat	Athens, GREECE Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue Athens, Greece 11635 Tel: +301 727 3100 Fax: +301 725 3196/197 e-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Depositary	Spanish Government
Signature, time and place of adoption	3 April 1982, Geneva
Entry into force	23 March 1986 Art. 18: 'This protocol shall enter into force on the 30 th day following the deposit of, at least, six instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to the Protocol'
European Community signature and entry into force	30 March 1983; 23 March 1986
Status of participation	Twenty-one Parties. No signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval
Last Conference of the parties	Eleventh ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, 27-30 October 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Monte Carlo, November 2001
Scope of the protocol	<p>- Geographical scope: the area to which this protocol shall be applied shall be the Mediterranean Sea area as defined in Art. 1 of the convention, being understood that for the purpose of this protocol, it shall be limited to the territorial waters of the parties and may include waters on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of watercourses, up to the freshwater limit. It may also include wetlands or coastal areas designated by each of the parties (Art. 2).</p> <p>- Legal scope: open to any contracting party of the Barcelona Convention, any State invited to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas and any regional economic grouping of which, at least, one member is a coastal State of the Mediterranean Sea area and which exercises competence in fields covered by this protocol.</p>
Amendments and additional protocols	A new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (not yet in force) was adopted in Barcelona on 10 June 1995 to replace the existing one. Annexes to this new Protocol were adopted in Monaco on 24 November 1996.
Aim of the protocol	To protect and improve the state of the natural resources and natural sites of the Mediterranean Sea
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall take all appropriate measures to protect those marine areas which are important to safeguard the natural resources and natural sites of the Mediterranean Sea area, and to safeguard their cultural heritage in the region (Art. 1). Parties will establish, maintain and restore protected areas (Arts 3 and 4), including buffer areas in which activities are less severely restricted (Art. 5). Parties will take the measures required to protect specific areas, such as prohibition of dumping or discharge of wastes, regulation of any act likely to harm or disturb the fauna or flora or regulation of trade in and import/export of animals from the protected areas (Art. 7). Give appropriate publicity to the establishment and significance of the protected areas (Arts 8 and 11). Establish and develop scientific and technical research on protect areas and their ecosystems and archaeological heritage (Art. 10). Cooperate in establishing and managing protected areas (Arts 6, 12, 13 and 15).
Financial issues	The financial rules adopted pursuant to Art. 18. 2 of the Barcelona Convention shall be applied with respect to this protocol, unless the parties to this protocol agree otherwise (Art. 18).
Linkages with other environmental or general protocols	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)
Sources on the internet	http://www.sedac.ciesin.org http://www.unepmap.org/

Reporting obligations under the Protocol

The information that the parties must publish about the establishment of protected areas, and buffer areas in which activities are less severely restricted while remaining compatible with the purposes of the protected areas, shall be notified to the organisation designated in Art. 13 of the Barcelona Convention, which shall compile and keep up to date a directory of protected areas in the area to which this protocol applies. The parties shall supply the organisation all the information necessary for that purpose (Art. 8)

Parties shall endeavour to inform the public as widely as possible about the significance and interest of the protected areas and about the scientific knowledge which may be gained from them of both nature conservation and archaeology (Art. 11)

Applying the principles of cooperation set forth in Arts 12 and 13, the parties shall forward to the organisation: comparable information for monitoring the biological development of the Mediterranean environment; reports, publications and information of a scientific, administrative and legal nature, in particular on the measures taken by the parties in pursuance of this protocol for the protection of the protected areas, on the species present in the protected areas and on any threats to those areas, specially those which may come from sources of pollution outside their control (Art. 14).

2.6. Un convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS)

Convention Secretariat	New York, USA Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea Office of legal affairs DC2-0470 United Nations New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 212 963 3951/3969 Fax: +1 212 96 35 847 e-mail: doalos@un.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	10 December 1982, Montego Bay, Jamaica
Entry into force	16 November 1994 Art. 308.2: 'This convention shall enter into force 12 months after the date of deposit of the 60 th instrument of ratification or accession. For each State ratifying or acceding to this convention after the deposit of the 60 th instrument of ratification or accession, the convention shall enter into force on the 30 th day following the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession, subject to paragraph 1'
European Community signature and entry into force	7 December 1984; 1 May 1998
Status of the parties	132 Parties. 38 signatories have not yet ratified
Last Conference of the parties	19-28 May 1999, New York
Next Conference of the parties	22-26 May 2000, New York
Scope of the convention	The convention is open to all States, certain self-governing associated States and territories, and international organisations to which the member States have transferred competence over matters governed by the Convention. Global geographic scope.
Amendments and additional protocols	Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. No more amendments or additional protocols exist.
Aim of the convention	The establishment of a comprehensive legal order to facilitate international communication and promote peaceful uses of the oceans and seas, the equitable and efficient utilisation of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment. The integration and balance of the right to exploit natural resources with the duty to manage and conserve such resources and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The provision of a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and preservation of the marine environment to be complemented and developed by further international rules and national measures.
Obligations of the parties	States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. The States must, inter alia, take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source. States shall, directly or through competent international organisations: - Promote programmes of scientific, educational, technical and other assistance to developing States for the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution. - Provide appropriate assistance, especially to developing States, for the minimisation of the effects of major incidents which may cause serious pollution of the marine environment. - Provide appropriate assistance, especially to developing States, concerning the preparation of environmental assessments. - Cooperate on a global or regional basis in formulating and elaborating international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. - Give effect in national law to such adopted international rules, standards, practices and procedures. For all seabed activities, i.e. pollution from seabed activities subject to national jurisdiction, pollution from activities in the area, pollution by dumping, and pollution from vessels, international rules and standards represent minimum standards. For all land-based sources and pollution from or through the atmosphere, national laws need to take into account only international rules and standards. In proceedings instituted pursuant this convention, States shall take measures to facilitate the hearing of witnesses and the admission of evidence submitted by authorities of another State, or by the competent international organisation, and shall facilitate the attendance at such proceedings of official representatives of the competent international organisation, the flag State and any State affected by pollution arising out of any violation. The official representatives attending such proceedings

shall have such rights and duties as may be provided under national laws and regulations or international law.

The provisions of Part XII of the convention are without prejudice to the specific obligations assumed by States under special conventions and agreements concluded previously which relate to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and to agreements which may be concluded in furtherance of the general principles set forth in this convention. Specific obligations assumed by States under special conventions, with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, should be carried out in a manner consistent with the general principles and objectives of this convention.

States and competent international organisations shall:

- Promote and facilitate: a) the development and conduct of marine scientific research in accordance with this convention; b) international cooperation in marine scientific research for peaceful purposes; c) the development and transfer of marine science and technology.

- Enforce national laws and regulations, which give effect to applicable international rules and standards. While the flag State (State of Vessel Registry) bears the primary responsibility for enforcement, the convention also gives the coastal State (State whose coastal water the vessel transits) and the port State (State whose ports, including offshore terminals, the vessels visit) enforcement rights.

- Adopt measures for the conservation of living resources and cooperate in taking such measures for high-seas fisheries.

- Settle disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the provisions of the convention by peaceful means.

The convention's provisions for the protection and preservation of the marine environment do not apply to a warship, naval auxiliary or other vessel or aircraft being used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, flag States are urged to apply these provisions so far as is reasonable and practicable.

Financial issues	Annual costs at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea are paid from the regular UN budget.
Sources on the internet	Http://www.un.org/Depts/los Http://www.isa.org.jm Gopher://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS Http://www.greenpeace.org/~intlaw/lscnts.html

2.7. Agreement relating to the implementation of part xi of the un convention on the law of the sea

Agreement Secretariat	New York, USA Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea Office of Legal Affairs, DC2-0470 United Nations New York, NY 10017 USA Tel: +1 212 963 3951/3969 Fax: +1 212 963 5847 e-mail: doalos@un.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation (Art. 9)
Signature, time and place of adoption	28 July 1994, New York
Entry into force	28 July 1996. Art. 6: 'This agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which 40 States have established their consent to be bound in accordance with Arts 4 and 5, provided that such States include, at least, 7 of the States referred to in paragraph 1 a) of Resolution II of the Third United Nations Conference of the Law of the Sea and that, at least, five of those States are developed States. If these conditions are fulfilled before 16 November 1994, this agreement shall enter into force on 16 November 1994'.
European Community signature and provisional application	29 August 1994; 16 November 1994
Status of participation	Ninety-six Parties. Fourteen signatories without ratification, formal confirmation or accession
Scope of the agreement	Membership is open to member States of the United Nations, any specialised agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice (Art. 3 of the agreement, Art. 305 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea). Geographic scope: The Area which means the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction
Amendments and additional protocols	The agreement has an Annex, divided into nine sections, addressing various issues. According to Art. 1 of the agreement this annex forms an integral part of it.
Aim of the agreement	The agreement aims to remove the obstacles to the acceptance of the convention that prevented some industrialised countries from becoming parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea, solving the various issues identified as problem areas during informal consultations (cost to States parties and institutional arrangements, decision-making mechanisms for the Authority, and future amendments to the convention...) and regulating procedural aspects such as signature, entry into force, and provisional application of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. It changes the provisions of the convention that establish a system for regulating the mining of mineral resources from the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction. The agreement provides, upon notification to the depositary, for a system of continuation of provisional membership in the International Seabed Authority for those States that have been applying it provisionally before its entry into force and have not yet ratified or acceded to the convention.
Obligations of the parties	Parties to this agreement undertake the implementation of Part XI of the convention in accordance with this agreement. In the event of an inconsistency between the agreement and Part XI, the provisions of the agreement shall prevail.
Financial issues	A Finance Committee has been established. The Committee shall be composed of 15 members with appropriate qualifications, relevant to financial matters. States parties shall nominate candidates of the highest standards of competence and integrity.
Sources on the internet	gopher://gopher.un.org/11

Reporting obligations under the Convention and the Agreement on the Law of the Sea

The main relevant reporting obligation for States:

- a) Monitoring the risks or effects of pollution. States shall publish reports of the results obtained in monitoring the risks or effects of pollution or provide such

reports at appropriate intervals to competent international organisations, which should make them available to all States (Art. 205).

- b) Assessment of potential effects of activities. When States have reasonable grounds for believing that planned activities under their jurisdiction or control may cause substantial pollution or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, they shall, as far as practicable, assess the potential effects of such activities on the marine environment and shall communicate reports of the results of such assessments in the manner provided for in Art. 205 (Art. 206).

In this respect, the following international organisations were identified as competent:

Art. 204: FAO, IAEA, IHO, IMO, IOC, UNESCO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO, WMO

Art. 205: FAO, IAEA, ICAO, IHO, IMO, IOC, UNESCO, UNEP

Art. 206: FAO, IAEA, IHO, IMO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO

Additionally there are the following reporting obligations:

- Notification of imminent or actual damage. When a State becomes aware of cases in which the marine environment is in imminent danger of being damaged or has been damaged by pollution, it shall immediately notify other States it deems likely to be affected by such damage, as well as the competent international organisations (Art. 198).
- Studies, research programmes and exchange of information and data. States shall cooperate, directly or through competent international organisations, to promote studies, undertake programmes of scientific research and encourage the exchange of information and data acquired about pollution of the marine environment. They shall endeavour to participate actively in regional and global programmes to acquire knowledge for the assessment of the nature and extent of pollution, exposure to it and its pathways, risks and remedies (Art. 200).
- Pollution from vessels. Whereas the international rules and standards to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from vessels and promote the adoption of routing systems designed to minimise the threat of accident are inadequate to meet special circumstances; whereas coastal States have reasonable grounds for believing that an area of their respective exclusive economic zones is an area where the adoption of special mandatory measures for the prevention of pollution from vessels is required, the coastal States, after appropriate consultations through the competent international organisation with any other States concerned, may, for that area, direct a communication to that organisation, submitting scientific and technical evidence in support and information on necessary reception facilities. Within 12 months after receiving such a communication, the organisation shall determine whether the conditions in that area correspond to the requirements set out above (Art. 211.6 a).
- Enforcement by flag States. States shall, at the written request of any State, investigate any violation alleged to have been committed by vessels flying under their flag. Flag States shall promptly inform the requesting State and the competent international organisation of the action taken and its outcome. Such information shall be available to all States (217.7).
- Notification to the flag State and other States concerned. States shall promptly notify the flag State and any other State concerned of any measures taken pursuant to section 6 (enforcement) against foreign vessels, and shall submit to the flag State all official reports concerning such measures. However, with respect to violations committed in the territorial sea, the foregoing obligations of the coastal State apply only to such measures as are taken in proceedings. The diplomatic agents or consular officers and, where possible, the maritime authority of the flag State, shall be immediately informed of any such measures taken pursuant to section 6 against foreign vessels (Art. 231).
- Publication and dissemination of information and knowledge. States and competent international organisations shall, in accordance with this convention,

make available by publication and dissemination through appropriate channels, information on proposed major programmes and their objectives as well as knowledge resulting from marine scientific research. For this purpose, States, both individually and in cooperation with other States and with competent international organisations, shall actively promote the flow of scientific data and information and the transfer of knowledge resulting from marine scientific research, especially to developing States, as well as the strengthening of the autonomous marine scientific research capabilities of developing States through, inter alia, programmes to provide adequate education and training of their technical and scientific personnel (Art. 244).

- Marine scientific research in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf. Coastal States shall give reasonable notice of the designation of areas on the continental shelf, beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, outside those specific areas which coastal States may, at any time, publicly designate as areas in which exploitation or detailed exploratory operations focused on those areas are occurring or will occur within a reasonable period of time, as well as any modifications thereto, but shall not be obliged to give details of the operations therein (Art. 246)
- Duty to provide information to the coastal State. States and competent international organisations which intend to undertake marine scientific research in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf of a coastal State shall, not less than six months in advance of the expected starting date of the marine scientific research project, provide that State with a full description of:
 - a) The nature and objectives of the project.
 - b) The method and means to be used, including name, tonnage, type and class of vessels and a description of scientific equipment.
 - c) The precise geographical areas in which the project is to be conducted.
 - d) The expected date of first appearance and final departure of the research vessels, or deployment of the equipment and its removal, as appropriate.
 - e) The name of the sponsoring institution, its director, and the person in charge of the project.
 - f) The extent to which it is considered that the coastal State should be able to participate or to be represented in the project (Art. 248).
- Duty to comply with certain conditions. According to Art. 249, States and competent international organisations, when undertaking marine scientific research in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf of a coastal State, shall comply with the following conditions:
 - Provide the coastal State, at its request, preliminary reports, as soon as practicable, and with the final results and conclusions after the completion of the research.
 - Undertake to provide access for the coastal State, at its request, to all data and samples derived from the marine scientific research project and likewise to furnish it with data which may be copied and samples which may be divided without detriment to their scientific value.
 - If requested, provide the coastal State with an assessment of such data, samples and research results or provide assistance in their assessment or interpretation.
 - Ensure, subject to paragraph 2, that the research results are made internationally available through appropriate national or international channels, as soon as practicable.
 - Inform the coastal State immediately about any major change in the research programme.
- Communications concerning marine scientific research projects. Communications concerning the marine scientific research projects shall be made through appropriate official channels, unless agreed otherwise (Art. 250).
- Where a coastal State intends to establish, in accordance with Art. 76, the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, it shall submit

particulars of such limits to the Commission along with supporting scientific and technical data as soon as possible but, in any case, within 10 years of the entry into force of this convention for that State. The coastal State shall, at the same time, give the names of any Commission members who have provided it with scientific and technical advice (Art. 4 of Annex II. Commission On The Limits Of The Continental Shelf).

Annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea are submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 52/26 of 26 November 1997, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to report annually developments pertaining to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea. Such reports are also presented in connection with General Assembly resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to him upon the adoption of the convention. The Secretary-General's report is a comprehensive endeavour, which provides essential information on a number of issues, including the issue of development and management of marine resources and protection and preservation of the marine environment. States parties do not directly contribute to this report, nor are they required to do so.

In the International Seabed Authority, established pursuant to Part XI of the convention, the members (e.g. all States parties to the convention) are appraised of the work of Authority through the report of the Secretary-General of the Authority.

The General Assembly of the United Nations considers also every year fisheries issues, either 'large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorised fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments,' or 'Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the convention, related to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks'. It requests regularly that the Secretary-General bring its resolutions on those subjects to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organisations, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organisations and relevant non-governmental organisations, and invites them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant for the implementation of those resolutions.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General sends a verbal note to all members of the international community, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of such resolutions and addresses letters to relevant intergovernmental organisations, specialised agencies, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as regional and subregional fisheries management organisations, and relevant non-governmental organisations, requesting them to provide information. Usually, submissions and comments are expected by June / July, as indicated in the notes or letters.

2.8. Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the north sea by oil and other harmful substances (Bonn agreement)

Agreement Secretariat	London, UNITED KINGDOM Bonn Agreement Secretariat New Court, 48 Carey Street London WC2A 2JQ Tel: +44 (0)20 7430 5200 Fax: +44 (0)20 7430 2999 e-mail: secretariat@bonnagreement.org
Depositary	Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Art. 18)
Signature, time and place of adoption	13 September 1983, Bonn, Germany
Entry in to force	1 September 1989. Art. 19: 'This agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the governments of all the States mentioned in Art. 18 of this agreement and the European Economic Community have signed the agreement without reservation to ratification, acceptance or approval. Upon the entry into force of this agreement, the Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil, Bonn, 9 June 1969, shall cease to be in force'
European Community signature and entry into force	13 September 1983; 1 September 1989
Status of participation	Nine parties
Last Conference of the parties	29 September-1 October 1999, France
Next Conference of the parties	9-11 May 2000, Bruges, Belgium
Scope of the agreement	Legal scope: global (Art. 18). Geographic scope: covers the North Sea south of latitude 61°N and the English Channel east of a line 50 nautical miles west of a line joining the Scilly Isles and Ushant (Art. 2).
Amendments and additional protocols	None. Council Decision 93/540 of 18 October, approving certain amendments dealing with pollution of the North sea by oil and other harmful substances (Bonn Agreement)
Aim of the agreement	To ensure cooperation between the coastal States in providing manpower, supplies, equipment and scientific advice at a short notice to deal with discharges of oil or other harmful substances in the North Sea
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties shall jointly develop and establish guidelines for the practical, operational and technical aspects of joint action. Parties shall cooperate in informing each other of spillages of oil or other harmful substances in the area and in requiring masters of the ships and pilots of aircraft registered in their territories to report such incidents (Art. 5).
Financial issues	The meeting of the parties shall agree the budget which shall contain all planned expenditure and all estimated revenue, the receipt of which can be estimated with confidence for the financial year to which it relates; a non-binding estimated expenditure for the three subsequent years shall be circulated at the same time (financial rules adopted after Art. 12 of the convention). Each contracting party shall contribute 2.5 % towards the annual expenditure of the agreement. The balance of the agreement's expenditure shall be divided among contracting parties other than the European Economic Community, in proportion to their gross national product and in accordance with the scale of assessment adopted regularly by the United Nations General Assembly (Art. 15).
Sources on the internet	http://www.bonnagreement.org

Reporting obligations under the agreement

One of the main purposes of the Bonn Agreement is the mutual notification of relevant incidents.

The contracting parties shall inform the other contracting parties about (Art.4):

- Their national organisation for dealing with pollution.
- The competent authority responsible for receiving and despatching reports of such pollution and for dealing with questions concerning measures of mutual assistance between contracting parties.

- Their national means for avoiding or dealing with such pollution, which might be made available for international assistance.
- New ways in which such pollution may be avoided and new effective measures to deal with it.
- Major pollution incidents of this kind that have been dealt with.

The contracting parties shall establish a standard form for the reporting of pollution (Art.5).

Whenever a contracting party is aware of an accident or of the presence of oil or other harmful substances in the North Sea area likely to constitute a serious threat to the coast or related interests of any other contracting party, it shall inform that party without delay through its competent authority (Art. 5).

The contracting party shall inform all the other contracting parties through its competent authorities of its assessments and of any action which it has taken to deal with the oil and other harmful substances (Art. 6).

Apart from any reporting obligations contained in the agreement, the Bonn Agreement contracting parties have a general agreement to exchange information to provide mutual assistance, as, for instance, in the case of accidents.

The contracting parties are recommended to use the POLREP system for the reporting of obligations under Art. 5(1), 6(2), transmission of warnings, information and matters related to assistance under Art. 7 and information of other contracting parties in case of casualty or pollution causing great concern (Recommendation concerning the introduction of a Pollution Reporting System (POLREP) for notification of incidents of marine pollution to contracting parties).

Moreover, a reporting format to cover 'natural' pollution incidents caused by algal blooms has been adopted by the Paris Commission (ALGPOLREP).

At their 12th meeting, the contracting parties adopted New Guidelines for reporting performance of counter-measures in pollution incidents (BA12/14/1).

Furthermore there is annual reporting to the Bonn Agreement meetings on e.g. results of annual aerial surveillance activities. These results are assessed annually and published by a standard format.

2.9. Cooperation agreement for the protection of the coasts and waters of the north-east Atlantic against pollution

Convention Secretariat	No special Secretariat exists
Depositary	Government of Portugal
Signature, time and place of adoption	17 October 1990, Lisbon
Entry into force	Not yet in force Art. 22: 'This agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which all the States referred to in this article and the European Economic Community sign without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval or deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval'.
European Community signature and entry into force	17 October 1990; Not yet in force
Status of participation	Four parties and the European Economic Community
Last Conference of the parties	Data not available since there is no special secretariat and the convention is not in force
Next Conference of the parties	Data not available since there is no special secretariat and the convention is not in force
Scope of the agreement	Geographic scope: the North-East Atlantic Region bounded by the outer limit of the exclusive economic zones of each of the contracting States
Aims of the agreement	To protect the human environment in general and the marine environment in particular. To prevent and eliminate pollution and enact the measures necessary to protect the sea area.
Obligations of the parties	To take all appropriate measures in order to be prepared to deal with an incident of pollution at sea such as pollution caused by hydrocarbons or other harmful substances. To jointly draw up and determinate guidelines covering the practical, operational and technical aspects of joint action. To set up a national system to prevent and combat incidents of pollution at sea.
Financial issues	In the absence of any bilateral or multilateral agreement which may be concluded on the financial provisions governing action taken by the parties to combat pollution at sea, the parties shall bear the costs of their respective action to combat such pollution.
Linkages with other environmental or general agreements	None
Sources on the internet	Http://www.ospar.org/eng http://min-nestrangeiros.pt/politica/multilateral/treaty.html

Reporting obligations under the agreement

Each party shall provide the other parties information on: its international resources intended for preventing and dealing with such pollution; new methods to avoid such pollution and effective new techniques for dealing with it; and the main pollution incidents on which it has had to take action.

Moreover, parties shall provide the other parties with a description of the administrative organisation and of the responsibility of each component for the preparation and implementation of measures to prevent and combat pollution, and in particular of the national authority responsible for dealing with questions of mutual assistance with other parties.

National operational contact points are to be responsible for receiving and issuing reports on pollution incidents at sea, as mentioned in Art. 8.

Each of the parties shall develop means for monitoring shipping, by setting up departments dealing with shipping movements. The parties shall, to that end, consult each other regularly and shall participate actively in the studies needed for such development within the competent international bodies, including studies into linking up national departments dealing with shipping movements (Art. 12).

Section 3. Nature protection – flora and fauna

3.1. Convention on fishing and conservation of the living resources in the Baltic sea and the belts

Convention Secretariat	Warsaw, POLAND International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (Art. 6 of the convention) 20, Hoza St. 00-528 Warsaw, Poland Tel: +48 22 628 8647 Fax: +48 22 625 3372 e-mail: ibsf@polbox.pl
Depositary	Government of Poland (Art. 17)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted 13 September 1973, Gdansk, Poland
Entry in to force	28 July 1974. Art. XVIII: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day following the date of the deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification or approval...'
European Community accession and entry into force	17 February 1984; 18 March 1984
Status of participation	Six parties and the European Economic Community, 18 March 1984
Last Conference of the parties	25 th session, 4-8 September 1999, Warsaw, Poland
Next Conference of the parties	26 th session, 4-8 September 2000, Tallinn, Estonia
Scope of the convention	Geographic scope: the convention area includes all waters of the Baltic Sea and the Belts, excluding internal waters, bounded in the west by a line as from Hasenore Head to Gniben Point, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Head to Kullen (Art. 2). Legal scope: open to accession by any State interested in the preservation and rational exploitation of living resources in the Baltic Sea and Belts, subject to invitation from the parties (Art. 16).
Amendments and additional protocols	Amendment to Art. VII of 22/01/1996 Protocol to the conference of the Representatives of the States parties to the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts (9-11 November 1982, Warsaw) which amends Arts VIII.3, IX.1, XF, XIII, XVII and completes Art. XI, XII.3 and XVII.
Aim of the convention	To achieve greater and closer cooperation between the parties in order to maintain the maximum stable productivity of the living resources of the region
Obligations of the parties	The contracting States shall (Art. 1): - Cooperate with a view to preserving and increasing the living resources of the Baltic Sea and the Belts and obtaining the optimum yield. - Prepare and put into effect organisational and technical projects on observation and growth of living resources, including measures of artificial reproduction of valuable fish species and/or contribute financially to such measures, on a just and equitable basis, as well as to take other steps towards rational and effective exploitation of the living resources.
Financial issues	The Commission shall adopt every two years a budget of proposed expenditures and budget estimates for the fiscal period following thereafter. The total amount of the budget, including any supplementary budget, shall be contributed by the contracting States in equal parts. Each contracting State shall pay the expenses related to the participation in the Commission of its representatives, experts and advisers (Art.7).
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	These is a linkage with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Moreover, it cooperates closely with Helcom.
Sources on the internet	Http://www.ibsf.org Http://sedac.ciesin.org

Reporting obligations under the convention

Each contracting State shall furnish to the Commission at such time and in such form as may be required by the Commission, the available statistical data and information (for example catch and fishing effort) as well as all actions taken on (Art. 12):

- Measures taken in regard to its nationals and its vessels to ensure the application of the provisions of this convention and the recommendations of the Commission.

- Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission binding on the State through its national authorities, within its territorial sea and in the waters under its fisheries jurisdiction.

In particular the parties shall report according to unified reporting formats according to new Rule 2.1. of the Fishery Rules on:

- Quota transfers and exchanges of quota (yearly).
- Number of vessels authorised to fish cod in the Baltic Sea (yearly).
- Rate of utilisation of the Baltic Total Allowable Catches (TACs)/available quotas (monthly).
- Reporting of landings of other contracting parties (monthly).

3.2. Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals

Convention Secretariat	Bonn, GERMANY UNEP/CMS Secretariat United Nations Premises in Bonn Martin-Luther-king Strasse 8 D- 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: +49 228 8152401/8 Fax: +49 228 8152449 e-mail: cms@unep.de
Depositary	Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Art. XVI)
Signature, time and place of adoption	23 June 1979, Bonn
Entry in to force	1 November 1983 Art. XVIII: 'This convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the date of deposit of the 15 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary'
European Community accession and entry into force	1 March 1983; 1 November 1983
Status of the parties	Sixty-five Parties. Five signatories without ratification, acceptance or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	COP 6, Cape Town, South Africa, 6-16 November 1999
Next Conference of the parties	COP 7 will take place during the first half of 2002 in Germany
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to all States and regional economic integration organisations. Membership of subsidiary agreements under the convention is open to all range States for the species covered, including States that are not parties to the parent convention. Geographic scope: global
Amendments and additional protocols	Amendments made to the appendices in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 1999
Aim of the convention	To conserve wild animal species that migrate across or outside national boundaries by developing and implementing cooperative agreements, prohibiting taking of endangered species, conserving habitat, and controlling other adverse factors
Obligations of the parties	-Parties should promote, cooperate in and support research relating to migratory species. -They shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I. -They shall endeavour to conclude agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II (Art. II).
Financial issues	The convention is financed entirely by the parties, on the basis of the UN scale, with a maximum of 25 % by any party. The agreements are also to be financed by the parties, but the basis varies. The Conference of the parties shall establish and keep under review the financial regulations of this convention. The Conference of the parties shall, at each of its ordinary meetings, adopt the budget for the next financial period (Art. VII.4).
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	- Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea - Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS) - Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) - Agreement on the conservation of Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nairobi, 1992 - UN Convention on the Law of the sea (UNCLOS), 1982 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, (RAMSAR), 1971 - Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES, 1973 - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), 1972
Sources on the internet	http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms

Reporting obligations under the convention

A permanent monitoring system is regulated in Art. VI.

- Parties shall keep the Secretariat informed about the migratory species listed in Appendices I and II, when they consider themselves to be range States, including provision of information on their flag vessels engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in taking the migratory species concerned and, where possible, future plans in respect of such taking.
- Parties which are range States for migratory species listed in Appendix I and II should inform the Conference of the parties through the Secretariat, at least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference, on measures that they are taking to implement the provisions of this convention for these species.

Many parties to the convention have never submitted national reports or have not submitted information in sufficient detail.

Parties must also inform the Secretariat about exceptions made to the prohibition on taking of Appendix I species (Art. 3.7) but, although the Secretariat is aware informally of some cases of such taking, it has never been informed by parties officially.

Resolution 4.1. (11-6-94) provides model formats for contracting parties, new and old, to be followed when making their national report. In case of new Parties, a comprehensive initial report is required, and in case of longer standing Parties, updated information only is sought.

Recognising that a standard format for national reports would provide a useful structure for organising the information received, and would facilitate its incorporation in a comprehensive database, the resolution:

1. Urges all parties to submit to the Secretariat comprehensive national reports on their implementation of the convention following the agreed formats annexed to this resolution.
2. Encourages national focal points and their scientific councillor counterparts to liaise on the preparation of national reports before they are submitted to the Secretariat through official channels.
3. Requests the Secretariat to send a reminder to parties well in advance of the deadline for submission of reports, six months before the meeting of the Conference of the parties.
4. Directs the Secretariat to compile the information received from parties in a database, to be updated inter-seasonally with new information that may be made available by parties.

The COP6 also considered the reporting system and, in particular, considered ways in which the number of countries submitting reports could be increased. A new reporting system will be developed by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Scientific Council and the Standing Committee to be operational on a voluntary basis for COP7.

3.3. Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats

Convention Secretariat	Strasbourg, FRANCE Council of Europe Boite Postale 431 R6 F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France Tel: +33 3 88 41 35 59 Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51 e-mail: point_i@coe.fr Eladio.galiano@coe.int
Depositary	The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe (Art. 19.1)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Bern, 19 September 1979
Entry into force	1 June 1982 Art. 19: 'The convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which five States, including at least four member States of the Council of Europe, have expressed their consent to be bound by the convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph'
European Community signature and entry into force	19 September 1979; 1 September 1982
Status of the parties	Forty Parties
Last Conference of the parties	29 November-3 December 1999, Strasbourg, France
Next Conference of the parties	27 November-3 December 2000, Strasbourg, France
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: the convention is open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe, non-member States which have participated in its elaboration and the European Union. After its entry into force, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any non-member State of the Council to accede to the convention.
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aims of the convention	To conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several States, and to promote such cooperation. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species (Art. 1).
Obligations of the parties	General obligations of the parties: - Each contracting party shall take requisite measures to maintain the population of wild fauna and flora at, or adapt them to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, and to take steps to promote national policies for conservation with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species and endangered habitats (Arts 2 and 3). - Each contracting party shall take appropriate and necessary measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild species of fauna and flora, especially those specified in Appendices I and II of the convention and the conservation of endangered natural habitats. Special attention should be given to the protection of areas important for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III (Art. 4). - Contracting parties shall take appropriate and necessary measures to ensure the special protection of wild species of fauna and flora specified in Appendices I and II. Wild fauna species specified in Appendix III shall be protected, and any exploitation shall be regulated in order to keep the populations out of danger (Arts 5-7). - Contracting parties shall prohibit the use of all indiscriminate means of capture and killing and, in particular, the means specified in Appendix IV (Art. 8).
Financial issues	This convention is financed by the Council of Europe and by voluntary contributions of the parties
Sources on the internet	http://www.nature.coe.int http://www.coe.fr http://www.ecnc.nl http://sedac.ciesin.org http://nature.coe.int/english/cadre/berne.htm

Reporting obligations under the convention

The contracting parties shall report every two years to the Standing Committee the exceptions made from the provisions of the Arts 4 (protection of habitats), 5, 6, 7 (protection of species) and the prohibition of the use of means mentioned in Art. 8, provided that there is no other satisfactory solution and that the exception will not be detrimental for the survival of the population concerned:

- For the protection of flora and fauna.
- To prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, water and other forms of property.
- In the interests of public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests.
- For the purposes of research and education, of repopulation, of reintroduction and for the necessary breeding.
- To permit, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking, keeping or other judicious exploitation of certain wild animals and plants in small numbers.

These reports must specify:

- The populations which are or have been subject to the exceptions and, when practical, the number of specimens involved.
- The means authorised for killing or capture.
- The conditions of risk and the circumstances of time and place under which such exceptions were granted.
- The authority empowered to declare that these conditions have been fulfilled, and to take decisions in respect of the means that may be used, their limits and the persons instructed to carry them out.
- The controls involved (Art. 9).

Contracting parties are required to use model forms for their biennial report, bearing in mind Resolution No. 2 (1993) on the scope of Arts 8 and 9 of the Bern Convention. It is the Commission who, on the basis of its member States reports on the exceptions regarding the Birds Directive and submits to the convention a report on behalf of the Community.

Moreover, the Standing Committee decided that the contracting parties should also submit general reports, every fourth year, detailing the actions taken to comply with the provisions of the convention. At the 17th meeting, the parties approved guidelines for the contents of a general report by the parties.

According to Art. 11, each contracting party shall inform the Standing Committee about the species receiving complete protection in its territory and not included in Appendices I and II.

3.4. Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources

Convention Secretariat	Tasmania, AUSTRALIA Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources 23 Old Wharf, Hobart, Tasmania 7002 Australia Tel: +61 3 62310366 Fax: +61 3 62349965 e-mail: ccamlr@ccamlr.org
Depositary	Government of Australia (Art. XXVII)
Signature, time and place of adoption	20 May 20 1980, Canberra
Entry into force	7 April 1982 Art. XXVIII: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 30 th day following the date of deposit of the eighth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval by States referred to in paragraph 1 of Art. XXVI of this convention'
European Community accession and entry into force	21 April 1982; 21 May 1982
Status of the parties	Twenty-nine Parties, of which 23 form part of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. No signatories without ratification, acceptance, or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	XVIII meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, 25 October-5 November 1999, Hobart, Australia
Next Conference of the parties	
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to all States and economic integration organisations. Geographic scope: the convention applies to the Antarctic marine living resources of the area south of 60°S latitude and to the Antarctic marine living resources of the area between that latitude and the Antarctic Convergence which form part of the Antarctic marine ecosystem (Art. I).
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the convention	The conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.(the term 'conservation' includes rational use), Art. II.
Obligations of the parties	- Each contracting party shall take appropriate measures within its competence to ensure compliance with the provisions of this convention and with conservation measures adopted by the Commission. - Each contracting party undertakes to exert appropriate efforts, consistent with the charter of the United Nations, to the end that no one engages in any activity contrary to the objective of this convention. - Contracting parties that are not parties of the Antarctic Treaty, are bound by Arts I, IV, V and VI of that treaty (Art. IV and V). They will observe, as and when appropriate, the agreed measures for the conservation of Antarctic fauna and flora and such other measures as have been recommended by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (contracting parties to the Antarctic Treaty whose representatives participate in meetings under Art. IX of the Antarctic Treaty) in fulfilment of their responsibility for the protection of the Antarctic environment from all forms of harmful human interference (Art. V).
Financial issues	The commission adopts its budget and the budget of the Scientific Committee at each annual meeting. Each member contributes to the budget. The financial activities are conducted in accordance with financial regulations adopted by the Commission and subject to annual external audit.
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	The convention is an additional component instrument of the Antarctic Treaty System.
Sources on the internet	http://www.iccat.es http://www.ccamlr.org

Reporting obligations under the convention

Each party is required to inform the Commission of any activities in violation of the convention that come to its knowledge. The Commission calls the attention of any State which is not a party to the convention to activities of its nationals or ships which are felt to be in contravention of the objectives of the convention. National reports are submitted in yearly, monthly, or five-day periods, depending on the nature of the report. Some reports are private, others public. There is no independent verification of data or information.

Each contracting party shall transmit to the Commission information on measures taken to ensure compliance with the provisions of this convention, and with

conservation measures as sought by the Commission, including the imposition of sanctions for any violation (Art. 21).

According to the text of the CCAMLR System of Inspection, each contracting party shall provide to the Commission by 1 May each year, a list of all its flag vessels intending to harvest marine living resources in the convention area during the year, beginning 1 July. Such lists shall include:

1. Name of vessel.
2. Call sign of the vessel registered by appropriate authorities of the flag State.
3. Port of Registration and nationality of the vessel.
4. Notification that the master of the vessel will be harvesting marine living resources in the convention area.

Each contracting party shall also notify the Commission, as soon as possible, of any of its flag vessels added to or deleted from the list during an ongoing fishing season. The Commission shall promptly communicate this information to other contracting parties.

In addition, each contracting party shall provide to the Commission the following information about licences or permits issued by its authorities to its flag vessels, authorising them to fish in the convention area:

- Name of the vessel.
- Time period(s) for fishing.
- Area(s) of fishing.
- Species targeted.
- Gear used.

Such information shall be communicated to the Commission within the seven days after the issue of each licence or permit and the Commission shall circulate the information to all parties within seven days.

CCAMLR has specific guidelines on the provision of various types of data, including scheduled dates for their submission. However, these documents are designed for internal use and can be accessed by interested parties only by means of a request being submitted to the Secretariat by official representatives of CCAMLR members.

3.5. European convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

Convention Secretariat	Strasbourg, FRANCE Council of Europe Boite Postale 431 R6 F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France Tel: +33 3 88 41 35 59 Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51 e-mail: point_i@coe.fr Gianluca.silvestrini@coe.int LAURENCE.lwoff@coe.int
Depositary	Council of Europe (Art. 33 of the convention)
Signature, time and place of adoption	18 March 1986, Strasbourg, France
Entry into force	1 January 1991 Art. 32: 'This convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month, following the expiration of a period of six months after the date on which four member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the convention, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 31. In respect of a Signatory which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, accession or approval'
European Community signature and entry into force	10 February 1987; 1 November 1998
Status of participation	Fourteen parties and the European Economic Community
Last Conference of the parties	Third meeting of the parties, Strasbourg, France, 27-31 May 1997
Next Conference of the parties	Strasbourg, December 2000/beginning 2001
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to members of the Council of Europe and the European Communities and States not members of the Council of Europe upon invitation by the unanimous vote of the parties of the convention. Geographic scope: global.
Amendments and additional protocols	Protocol of Amendment of the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes, Strasbourg, 22 June 1998
Aim of the convention	To protect vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes from cruel and inhumane scientific procedures (preamble, Art.1)
Obligations of the parties	To take all necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of this convention and to ensure an effective system of control and supervision as soon as possible and in any case within a period of five years from the date of entry into force of the present convention in respect of that party (Art. 3).
Financial issues	The administrative budget is financed by contributions of the parties and other organisations.
Sources on the internet	Http://sedac.ciesin.org http://www.uku.fi http://www.nature.coe.int

Reporting obligations under the convention

Each party shall collect statistical information on the use of animals in procedures and this information shall, where lawful, be made available to the public (Art. 27).

Information shall be collected in respect of:

- a) The number and kinds of animals used in procedures.
- b) The number of animals in selected categories used in procedures directly concerned with medicine, education and training.
- c) The number of animals in selected categories used in procedures for the protection of man and environment.
- d) The number of animals in selected categories used in procedures required by law.

Each party shall communicate every year to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe (Art. 28), information in respect of the items mentioned above and presented in the form set out in Appendix B to the convention, in order to facilitate the work of the Secretary-General.

Each party is invited to communicate to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe the address of its national authority from which information about more comprehensive national statistics may be obtained on request. Such addresses will be contained in the publications of statistics made by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

3.6. Convention on the protection of the alps

Convention Secretariat	Switzerland has adopted the presidency of the Alpine Convention for the years 1999-2000 Coordinator: Alpine Convention with the Swiss Department for Environment, Forests and Landscape, Bern Hallwylstrasse 4 3003 Bern Tel: +41 31 323 07 32 Fax: +41 31 323 03 67
Depositary	Government of Austria
Signature, time and place of adoption	7 November 1991, Salzburg
Entry into force	9 March 1995 Art. 12.3: 'The convention shall enter into force three months after the date on which three States have expressed their consent to be bound by the convention...'
European Community signature and entry into force	7 November 1991; 29 May 1996
Status of the parties	Eight Parties
Last Conference of the parties	October 1998, Bled, Slovenia
Next Conference of the parties	By the end of the year 2000
Scope of the convention	The following areas are covered specifically by the convention: population and culture, regional planning, prevention of air pollution, soil conservation, water management, conservation of nature and countryside, mountain farms, mountain forest, tourism and recreation, transport, energy, and waste management.
Amendments and additional protocols	Protocol of Accession of the Principality of Monaco to the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, which was signed by the EU 20 December 1994 but is not yet in force. For the moment, seven protocols have been adopted by three Alpine Conferences, although they are not in force: Regional planning and sustainable development; conservation of nature and countryside; mountain farming (Chambéry, 20 December 1994). Mountain forests; tourism (Brdo, 27 February 1996). Soil protection; energy (Bled, 20 October 1998). The transport protocol should be approved during the next Alpine Conference in 2000.
Aim of the convention	To pursue a comprehensive policy for the preservation and protection of the Alps through application of the principles of prevention, payment by the polluter and cooperation, in order to ensure sustainable development of the whole Alpine range
Obligations of the parties	The Alpine Convention imposes the obligation on its contracting parties to coordinate their activities and to undertake joint actions in the areas of Alpine observation and research (Arts 3 and 4) relating to all 12 themes covered by the convention. Therefore, the contracting parties shall: - Cooperate with international governmental and non-governmental organisations, where necessary, to ensure the effective implementation of the convention. - Cooperate in the carrying out of research activities and scientific assessments, develop joint or complementary systematic monitoring programmes, and harmonise research, monitoring and related data-acquisition activities. - Provide legal, scientific, economic and technical cooperation in areas relevant to the convention.
Financial issues	The necessary financial decisions will be made by the Conference of the parties according to Art. 6.
Sources on the internet	http://www.cipra.org http://www.abis.int

Reporting obligations under the convention

The contracting parties shall facilitate and promote the exchange of legal, scientific, economic and technical information relevant to this convention. They shall inform each other of planned legal or economic measures which are expected to have particular effects on the Alpine region or parts thereof, in order to give the utmost consideration to cross border and regional requirements (Art. 4).

The contracting parties shall ensure that the public is regularly kept informed in an appropriate manner about the results of research, monitoring and action taken.

The contracting parties' obligations under this convention with regard to the provision of information shall be subject to compliance with national laws on confidentiality. Information designated as confidential shall be treated as such.

The presidency of the representing Committee of the Convention (Switzerland) has notified us that, so far, a system of monitoring has not yet been introduced for the Alpine Convention.

A system has been set up called System for Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA) to provide pertinent information rapidly and to disseminate it properly. The terms of the decision made by the Alpine Conference in Chambéry state that the SOIA must, in particular, fulfil the following tasks:

- Produce documentation on research results.
- Define and pursue priority research topics.
- Constitute harmonised indicators.
- Define and pursue priority topics for observation.
- Cartography.
- Catalogues of data sources.
- Thesauruses.
- Define a common framework for reporting on the state of the Alpine environment.

The SOIA, which entered its operational phase at the beginning of 1997, has taken the form of a network consisting of eight national communication centres designated by each of the Alpine States and completed by a coordination unit, located in the Joint Research Centre of Ispra, which also acts as a communication centre for the European Community. The Observation and Information System is, therefore, a decentralised one, while the tasks of the coordination unit and the activities for which the communication centres are responsible have been fixed by an operating regulation adopted by the Standing Committee. The Alpine Conference has also laid down guidelines for the SOIA's organisational structure for a transitory period of three years, comprising three levels:

- A strategic level, constituted by the Standing Committee.
- A steering body, the tasks of which fall to the 'Alpine Observation' Working Party.
- The executives, comprising the national communication centres and the coordination unit.

SOIA's current tasks have been largely defined on the basis of five pilot projects carried out in 1995-1996 by the previous 'Alpine Observation' Working Party. The latter, which was approved at the end of 1996 by the Standing Committee, proposed an activity programme for the years 1997-1999, consisting of six major activities. These activities concern:

- The definition and collection of environmental indicators with a view to their publication.
- The definition and collection of socio-economic indicators with a view to their publication.
- The devising of an Information System on Alpine Research (SIRA), based on two modules, one devoted to bodies (completed to a large extent), and the other on documentation.
- The creation of an Alpine Catalogue of Data Sources (ACSD), which was to take the inspiration for its format from the European Environment Agency's catalogue.

- The development of a cartographic system, both to obtain a series of layers from a geographical information system with four priority themes (topography, hydrographic, transport networks and town planning, protected areas) and to benefit from a graphic representation of the various indicators.
- The creation of a computerised communications system, serving as the network's own internal tool, for exchanging information and one for disseminating SOIA's information to the outside world through the intermediary of its publicly accessible website.

3.7. Convention on biological diversity

Convention Secretariat	Montreal, CANADA World Trade Centre 393 rue St Jacques, Office 300 Quebec H2Y 1N9, Canada Tel: +1 514 2882220 Fax: +1 514 2886588 e-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 41)
Signature, time and place of adoption	22 May 1992, Nairobi Opened for signature 5 June 1992, Rio Janeiro
Entry into force	29 December 1993 Art. 36: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 30 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession'
European Community signature and entry into force	13 June 1992; 21 March 1994
Status of participation	One hundred and seventy-six parties and 18 signatories, including the European Economic Community. Twelve signatories, without ratification, acceptance, or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	4 th Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 4-15 May 1998 Special session of the Conference of the parties, Cartagena, Colombia, 14-23 February 1999
Next Conference of the parties	5 th meeting, 15-26 May, 2000 Nairobi, Kenya
Scope of the convention	Jurisdictional scope: the provisions of this convention apply in relation to each contracting party: in case of components of biological diversity, in areas within the limits of its national jurisdiction and in the case of processes and activities, regardless of where their effects occur, carried out under its jurisdiction or control, within the area of its national jurisdiction or beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (Art. 4). Legal scope: open to all the States and regional economic integration organisations.
Amendments and additional protocols	Draft Protocol on biosafety, to help to minimise the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology (7 July 1996, Aarhus; 14-23 February 1999, Cartagena, Colombia)
Aim of the convention	'The objectives of this convention... are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and by appropriate funding' (Art. 1)
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall (Art. 6): – Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt, for this purpose, existing strategies plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this convention relevant to the contracting party concerned. – Integrate as far as possible and as appropriate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into the relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Parties shall also (Art. 7): - Identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use. – Monitor the components of biological diversity through sampling and other techniques. – Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects. Parties shall also: - Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity. – Adopt measures for the ex situ conservation of components of biological diversity. – Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making. – Adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. – Take legislative, administrative, or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Parties, especially developing countries, which provide the genetic resources for such research, and where feasible in such Parties

Financial issues	The administration of the convention, including the functions of the secretariat, is funded by the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was operative from 1995. All the States parties are required to contribute to the Trust Fund. The financial mechanism for the provision of financial resources to developing countries for the purpose of the convention has been entrusted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the world Bank, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
Linkages with other international conventions	- Cooperation between the Secretariat and secretariats of the 'Rio Conventions' (UNFCCC and UNCCD) and of the global 'biodiversity-related' conventions (CITES, CS, Ramsar, World Heritage). Also UNCLOS and some regional seas conventions. - Joint Work Plan with the Ramsar Convention (decision IV/, para.4) - FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (decisions II/5 and III/15) - FAO (decisions III/11) and IV/6 - World Trade Organisation (decisions II/12, III/15, III/17, IV/15) - World Intellectual Property Organisation (decisions III/17, IV/9, IV/15) - Intergovernmental Panel/Forum on Forests (decisions II/9, II/12, IV/17) - Commission on Human Rights (decisions III/14)
Sources on the internet	Http://www.biodiv.org

Reporting obligations under the convention

The contracting parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries. Such exchange of information shall include exchange of results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialised knowledge, indigenous and traditional knowledge as such and in combination with the technologies referred to in Art. 16. It shall also, where feasible, include repatriation of information (Art. 17).

The Conference of the parties shall keep under review the implementation of the convention and establish the form and the intervals for transmitting the information to be submitted in accordance with Art. 26 and consider such information as well as reports submitted by any subsidiary body (Art. 23).

Art. 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity states that each party shall present to the Conference of the parties reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of the convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the convention.

At its second meeting, the Conference of the parties decided that the first national reports should 'focus, so far as possible, on the measures taken for the implementation of Art. 6 of the convention, as well as the information available in national country studies on biological diversity' (decision II/17). The Annex to decision II/17 contains suggested guidelines for the first national report. A proposal for a reporting format for the second national reports is contained in the Guidelines for national reporting prepared for the Executive Secretary for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA.

At its third meeting, the Conference of the parties decided that the first national reports should be submitted no later than 1 January 1998 (decision III/9). By 31 December 1997, 93 developing-country parties had 'enabling activity' projects approved under the financial mechanism of the convention for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the preparation of first national reports.

Decision II/17 also requested the Executive Secretary to 'prepare a report based on the synthesis of information contained in national reports and other relevant information and containing also suggested next steps, for consideration by the

Conference of the parties'. The 86 national reports received by March 1998 were used as the basis for this report (document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev. 1) which was considered by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the parties. By the end of the fourth meeting, a total of 107 reports had been received. Many of these were interim reports.

In decision IV/14, the Conference of the parties encouraged parties that had submitted an interim report to submit full reports by 31 December 1998. It also urged parties that had not submitted a report to do so by the same date. In accordance with the decision, the Executive Secretary will prepare a revised report on the information contained in these reports for the fifth meeting of the SBSTTA (31 January-4 February 2000). This meeting of the SBSTTA will provide advice to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the parties (15-26 May 2000) on the intervals and form of future national reports.

One hundred and twelve reports have been submitted. All EU Member States have submitted reports.

3.8. International tropical timber agreement

Agreement Secretariat	Yokohama, JAPAN International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) International Organisations Centre, 5 th Floor, Pacific-Yokohama 1-1-1, Minato-Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012 Japan Tel: +81 45 2231110 Fax: +81 45 2231111 e-mail: itto@mail.itto-unet.ocn.ne.jp
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 17)
Signature, time and place of adoption	26 January 1994, Geneva. (The 1994 Agreement is the successor agreement to the ITTA, 1983, which was adopted on 18 November 1983 in Geneva and which entered into force in 1985)
Entry into force	1 January 1997 for an initial period of four years. Art. 41: 'This agreement shall enter into force definitively on 1 February 1995, it shall enter into force provisionally on that date or on any date within six months thereafter, if 10 governments of producing countries holding, at least, 50 % of the total votes, as set out in Annex A to this agreement, and 14 governments of consuming countries holding, at least, 65 % of the total votes, as set out in Annex B to this agreement, have signed this agreement definitively or have ratified, accepted or approved it, pursuant to Art. 38, or have notified the depositary under Art. 40 that they will apply this agreement provisionally'.
European Community signature and entry into force	13 May 1996; 1 January 1997
Status of participation	Forty-nine members (Belgium and Luxembourg occupying a joint membership), comprising 26 producing and 23 consuming members, including the European Union, by 15 December 1997 Four Signatories, comprising one producing and three consuming members, without ratification, acceptance, approval, definitive signature, or provisional application
Last Conference of the parties	27 th Conference of the Council of the Tropical Timber Agreement, Yokohama, Japan, 1-6 November 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Conference of the Council of the Tropical Timber Agreement, 24-31 May 2000, Lima, Peru
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to any State that produces or consumes tropical timber, and to intergovernmental organisations having responsibilities in respect of the negotiation, conclusion, and application of international agreements. Geographic scope: global.
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aims of the agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To provide an effective framework for consultation, international cooperation and policy development among all members with regard to all relevant aspects of the world timber economy.- To provide a forum for consultation to promote non-discriminatory timber trade practices.- To contribute to the process of sustainable development.- To enhance the capacity of members to implement a strategy for achieving exports of tropical timber from sustainably managed sources by the year 2000.- To promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainable sources, by improving the structural conditions in international markets.- To promote and support research and development, with a view to improving forest management and the efficiency of wood utilisation as well as increasing the capacity to conserve and enhance other forest values in timber-producing tropical forests.- To develop and contribute towards mechanisms for the provision of new and additional financial resources and expertise, needed to enhance the capacity of producing members to attain the objectives of this agreement.- To improve market intelligence with a view to ensuring greater transparency in the international tropical timber market.- To promote increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources in producing member countries, with a view to promoting their industrialisation and, thereby, increasing their employment opportunities and export earnings.- To encourage members to support and develop industrial tropical timber reforestation and forest management activities, as well as rehabilitation of degraded forest land, with due regard to the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources.- To improve marketing and distribution of tropical timber exports from

	<p>sustainably managed sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage members to develop national policies aimed at sustainable utilisation and conservation of timber-producing forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining the ecological balance in the regions concerned, in the context of the tropical timber trade. - To promote access to, and transfer of, technologies and technical cooperation to implement the objectives of this agreement. - To encourage information sharing on the international timber market.
Obligations of the parties	<p>Parties shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pay their annual assessed contributions to the administrative account. - Provide data to create transparency of the tropical timber economy and enable the secretariat to prepare an Annual Review and Assessment of the World Tropical Timber Situation. - Adhere to decisions made by the Council.
Financial issues	<p>The administrative budget is financed by annually assessed contributions from all member countries in proportion to their votes in the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)</p>
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	<p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)</p>
Sources on the internet	<p>http://www.itto.or.jp</p>

Reporting obligations under the agreement

Members are expected to submit data annually on their national production, trade, supply, stocks, consumption, and prices of tropical timber for the Annual Review and Assessment of the World Tropical Timber Situation. Members are required to supply other statistical data and specific indicators, as requested by the Council, and to report annually activities aimed at achieving sustainable forest management and on progress towards ITTO's Year 2000 Objective.

Ten members submitted such reports during 1993-94. Six members submitted such reports during 1996. A total of 33 statistical reports (63 % of members) were submitted in 1993-94, 46 reports (88.5 % of members) in 1995 and 44 reports (88 % of members) in 1996. ITTO supports several projects, pre-projects, and activities that include various environmental monitoring components.

Section 4. Air and atmosphere

4.1. Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution

Convention Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND UN/ECE, Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS) Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland Tel: +41 22 91723-70/54 Fax: +41 22 9070107 e-mail: kaj.bärlund@unece.org lars.nordberg@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 15 of the convention)
Signature, time and place of adoption	14 November 1979, Geneva Open for signature at the United Nations Office at Geneva 13-16 November 1979 (Art. 14)
Entry into force	16 March 1983 Art. 16: 'The present convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 24 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession'
European Community signature and entry into force	14 November 1979; 16 March 1983
Status of participation	Forty-five parties ratification and 33 signatures. One signatory without ratification, accession, acceptance, or approval.
Last Conference of the parties	Seventeenth session of the Executive Body for the convention, 6-10 December 1999, Geneva Switzerland
Next Conference of the parties	4-7 December 2000, Geneva, Switzerland
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to member States of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Community, and other European States having consultative status at the UN/ECE, (Art. 14). Geographic scope: regional. UN/ECE region (Europe and North America).
Amendments and additional protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-Term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, 28 September 1984, Geneva (See next summary box) - Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions on their Transboundary Fluxes by, at least, 30 %, 1985, Helsinki (the EC is not part of this protocol) - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Emissions), 14 June 1994, Oslo (See summary box following) - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (NOx Protocol), 31 October 1988, Sofia (See summary box following) - Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (VOC Protocol), 18 November 1991, Geneva (the EC is not part of this protocol) - Protocol on Heavy Metals, 24 June 1998 (The EC is not part of this protocol) - Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (The EC is not part of this protocol) - Protocol to abate acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone, 1999 (Not yet in force. The EC has not yet signed)
Aims of the convention	The contracting parties are determined (Art.2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To protect human beings and their environment against air pollution. - To limit and, gradually, as far as possible, to reduce and prevent air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution.
Obligations of the parties	The contracting parties are committed to (Arts 3, 4, 5, 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop by means of exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring, and without undue delay, policies and strategies which shall serve as a means of combating the discharge of air pollutants. - Exchange information and review their policies, scientific activities, and technical measures aimed at combating, as far as possible, the discharge of air pollutants which may have adverse effects, thereby contributing to the reduction of air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution. - Develop the best policies and strategies, including air-quality management systems, and, as part of them, control measures compatible with balanced development, in particular by using the 'best available technology' (BAT) that is economically feasible and low- or non-waste technology.

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Financial issues	Costs of meetings, documentation, and secretariat services are covered by the regular budget of UN/ECE. International coordination costs for the EMEP programme are financed by mandatory contributions from the parties to a UN-administered trust fund. Costs of other cooperative programmes are covered by voluntary contributions of participating Parties.
Sources on the internet	http://www.unece.org/env/env_eb.htm

Reporting obligations under the convention

Reporting obligations under this convention are established in its Art. 8 which says that contracting parties shall, in their common interests, exchange available information on:

- a) Data on emissions at periods of time to be agreed upon, of agreed air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide, coming from grid-units of agreed size, or on the fluxes of agreed air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide, across national borders, at distances and at periods of time to be agreed upon.
- b) Major changes in national policies and in general industrial development, and their potential impact, which would be likely to cause significant changes in long-range transboundary air pollution.
- c) Control technologies for reducing air pollution relevant to long-range transboundary air pollution.
- d) The projected cost of the emission control of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants on a national scale.
- e) Meteorological and physic-chemical data relating to the processes during transmission.
- f) Physic-chemical and biological data relating to the effects of long-range transboundary air pollution and extent of the damage which these data indicate can be attributed to long-range transboundary air pollution.
- g) National, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants.

Compliance with the commitments of the convention, including the obligation to submit annual reports and other information, is reviewed by the Executive Body at its meetings and in special two-year reviews based on detailed questionnaires (Art.10).

4.1.1. Protocol to the 1979 convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on long-term financing of the cooperative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

Convention Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND UN/ECE, Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS) Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 23 70/54 Fax: +41 22 907 01 07 e-mail: kaj.bärlund@unece.org lars.nordberg@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	28 September 1984, Geneva
Entry into force	28 January 1988 Art. 10: 'The present protocol shall enter into force on the 90 th day following the date on which: a) instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession have been deposited by at least 19 States and organisations referred to in Art. 8, which are within the geographical scope of EMEP; b) the aggregate of the UN assessment rates for such States and organisations exceeds 40 %'
European Community signature and entry into force	28 September 1984; 28 January 1988
Status of the parties	Thirty-eight parties and 22 signatures. No signatories without ratification, approval or acceptance.
Scope of the Protocol	Legal scope: member States of the Economic Commission for Europe and States having consultative status with the Economic Commission for Europe, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (VI) of 28 March 1947, and by regional economic integration organisations, constituted by Sovereign States Members of the Economic Commission for Europe, which have competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by the present Protocol, provided that the States and organisations concerned are Parties of the convention (Art. 8.1). Geographical scope: the area coordinated by the international centres of EMEP (Chemical Coordinating Centre, Meteorological Synthesising Centre-East and the Meteorological Synthesising Centre-West) (Art. 1).
Aim of the protocol	To share the costs of a monitoring programme which forms the backbone for reviewing and assessing relevant air pollution in Europe in the light of agreements on emission reduction. EMEP has three main components: collection of emission data for sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and other air pollutants; measurement of air and precipitation quality; and modelling of atmospheric dispersion.
Financial issues	The financing of EMEP shall consist of mandatory contributions, supplemented by voluntary contributions. Mandatory contributions shall be made, on an annual basis, by all contracting parties to the present protocol which are within the geographical scope of EMEP. Voluntary contributions may be made by the contracting parties or signatories by any country organisation or individual which wishes to contribute to the work programme, subject to approval by the Executive Body, on the recommendation of the Steering Body of EMEP. The annual costs shall be covered by the mandatory contributions (Art. 3)
Sources on the internet	http://www.unece.org/env/protocol

Reporting obligations under the convention and its Protocol

Monitoring data on actual depositions of air pollution are collected and analysed under the EMEP programme (Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe), and submitted to the Executive Body. EMEP collects precipitation gas and aerosol chemistry data from some 100 ground-level monitoring stations in 33 UN/ECE countries. The data are analysed to establish the transportation patterns of essential pollutants. These data are analysed and results published by EMEP's Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC) in Norway.

The national emission data and other information required from parties are further specified in work plans for implementation of the convention, adopted annually by

the Executive Body. Annual data reporting to the EMEP international centres is generally satisfactory.

Periodic public reviews of national reports and the data collected through EMEP and other cooperative programmes under the convention have served as a mechanism to induce compliance. The reviews are published after de-restriction by the Executive Body for the convention.

4.1.2. Protocol to the 1979 convention on long-range transboundary air pollution concerning the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes

Protocol Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND UN/ECE, Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS) Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 23 70/54 Fax: +41 22 907 01 07 e-mail: air.env@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	31 October 1988, Sofia
Entry into force	14 February 1991 Art. 15: 'The present protocol shall enter into force on the 90 th day following the date on which the 16 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession has been deposited'
European Community accession and entry into force	17 December 1993; 17 March 1994
Status of the parties	Twenty-seven ratifications and 25 signatures. Two signatories without ratification, accession, acceptance, or approval
Scope of the Protocol	Legal scope: member States of the Economic Commission for Europe, as well as States having consultative status with the Commission and regional economic integration organisations constituted by sovereign States Members of the Economic Commission for Europe
Aim of the protocol	Take effective measures to control and reduce the parties' national annual emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes so that these, at the latest by 31 December 1994, do not exceed their national emissions of such substances for 1987 or any previous year to be specified upon signature of, accession to, the Protocol.
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall, no later than two years after the date of entry into force of this protocol: - Apply national emissions standards to major new stationary sources and/or sources categories, and to substantially modified stationary sources in major source categories, based on the best available technologies which are economically feasible, taking into consideration the technical annex. - Apply national emissions standards to new mobile source categories based on the best available technologies which are economically feasible, taking into consideration the technical annex and the relevant decisions taken within the framework of the Inland Transport Committee of the Commission. - Introduce pollution control measures for major existing stationary sources, taking into consideration the technical annex and the characteristics of the plant, its age and its rate of utilisation and the need to avoid undue operational disruption. As a second step, the parties shall commence negotiations, to reduce national annual emissions of nitrogen oxides or transboundary fluxes of such emissions. To this end, parties shall cooperate in order to establish: critical loads, reductions in national annual emissions of nitrogen oxides or transboundary fluxes of such emissions, as required to achieve agreed objectives on critical loads, and measures and timetable commencing no later than 1 January 1996 for achieving such reductions (Art. 2).
Sources on the internet	http://www.unece.org/env/protocol

Reporting obligations under the Protocol

Parties shall exchange information notifying the executive body of the national programmes, policies and strategies that they develop in accordance with Art. 7 and by reporting to it annually on progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies, and in particular (Art. 8):

- a) The levels of national annual emissions of nitrogen oxides and the basis upon which they have been calculated.
- b) Progress in applying national emission standards required pursuant to Art. 2.2(a) and (b), the national emission standards applied and the sources and/or source categories concerned.
- c) Progress in introducing the pollution control measures required pursuant to Art. 2.2(c), the source concerned and the measure introduced or to be introduced.

- d) Progress in making unleaded fuel available.
- e) Measures taken to facilitate the exchange of technology.
- f) Progress in establishing critical loads.

All this information shall, as far as possible, be submitted in accordance with a uniform reporting framework.

4.1.3 Protocol to the 1979 convention on long-range transboundary air pollution concerning further reduction of sulphur emissions

Protocol Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND UN/ECE, Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS) Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 23 70/54 Fax: +41 22 907 01 07 e-mail: air.env@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	14 June 1994, Oslo
Entry into force	5 August 1998
European Community accession and entry into force	Signature the 14 June 1996 Ratification: 24 April 1998
Status of the parties	Twenty-eight signatures and 22 ratifications, approvals or accessions
Scope of the Protocol	Legal scope: open to member States of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Community, and other European States having consultative status at the UN/ECE. Geographic Scope: Regional. UN/ECE region (Europe and North America).
Aim of the protocol	To take further and more effective action to control and reduce sulphur emissions
Obligations of the parties	<p>'The parties shall control and reduce their sulphur emissions in order to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects, in particular acidifying effects, and to ensure, as far as possible, without entailing excessive costs, that depositions of oxidised sulphur compounds in the long term do not exceed critical loads for sulphur given, in Annex I, as critical sulphur depositions, in accordance with present scientific knowledge.</p> <p>2. As a first step, the parties shall, as a minimum, reduce and maintain their annual sulphur emissions in accordance with the timing and levels specified in Annex II.</p> <p>3. In addition, any party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whose total land area is greater than 2 million square kilometres; Which has committed itself under paragraph 2 above to a national sulphur emission ceiling no greater than the lesser of its 1990 emissions or its obligation in the 1985 Helsinki Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 %, as indicated in Annex II; Whose annual sulphur emissions that contribute to acidification in areas under the jurisdiction of one or more other parties originate only from within areas under its jurisdiction that are listed as SOMAs in Annex III, and has presented documentation to this effect; and Which has specified upon signature of, or accession to, the present Protocol its intention to act in accordance with this paragraph, shall, as a minimum, reduce and maintain its annual sulphur emissions in the area so listed in accordance with the timing and levels specified in Annex II. <p>4. Furthermore, the parties shall make use of the most effective measures for the reduction of sulphur emissions, appropriate in their particular circumstances, for new and existing sources, which include, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures to increase energy efficiency. - Measures to increase the use of renewable energy. - Measures to reduce the sulphur content of particular fuels and to encourage the use of fuel with a low sulphur content, including the combined use of high-sulphur with low-sulphur or sulphur-free fuel. - Measures to apply best available control technologies not entailing excessive cost, using the guidance in annex IV. <p>5. Each party, except those parties subject to the United States/Canada Air Quality Agreement of 1991, shall as a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply emission limit values at least as stringent as those specified in Annex V to all major new stationary combustion sources. No later than 1 July 2004 apply, as far as possible without entailing excessive costs, emission limit values at least as stringent as those specified in Annex V to those major existing stationary combustion sources the thermal input of which is above 500 MWth taking into account the remaining lifetime of a plant, calculated from the date of entry into force of the present Protocol, or apply equivalent emission limitations or other appropriate provisions, provided that these achieve the sulphur emission ceilings specified in Annex II and, subsequently, further approach the critical loads as given in Annex I; and no later than 1 July 2004 apply emission limit values or emission limitations to those major existing stationary combustion sources the thermal input of which is between 50 and 500 MWth using Annex V as guidance. No later than two years after the date of entry into force of the present Protocol apply national standards for the sulphur content of gas oil at least as stringent as those specified in Annex V. In cases where the supply of gas oil cannot otherwise be ensured, a State may extend the time period given in this subparagraph to a period of up to ten

years. In this case it shall specify, in a declaration to be deposited together with the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, its intention to extend the time period.

6. The parties may, in addition, apply economic instruments to encourage the adoption of cost-effective approaches to the reduction of sulphur emissions.

7. The parties to this protocol may, at a session of the Executive Body, in accordance with rules and conditions which the Executive Body shall elaborate and adopt, decide whether two or more parties may jointly implement the obligations set out in Annex II. These rules and conditions shall ensure the fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraph 2 above and also promote the achievement of the environmental objectives set out in paragraph 1 above.

8. The parties shall, subject to the outcome of the first review provided for under Art. 8 and no later than one year after the completion of that review, commence negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions.

(Art. 2).

Sources on the internet <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

Reporting obligations under the Protocol

Art. 5 of the Protocol:

1. 'Each party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Executive Body, information on:
 1. The implementation of national strategies, policies, programmes and measures referred to in Art. 4, paragraph 1;
 2. The levels of national annual sulphur emissions, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Executive Body, containing emission data for all relevant source categories; and
 3. The implementation of other obligations that it has entered into under the present Protocol;

in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format and/or content of the information that are to be included in the reports.

2. Each party within the geographical scope of EMEP shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to EMEP, on a periodic basis to be determined by the Steering Body of EMEP and approved by the parties at a session of the Executive Body, information on the levels of sulphur emissions with temporal and spatial resolution as specified by the Steering Body of EMEP.
3. In good time before each annual session of the Executive Body, EMEP shall provide information on:
 - a) Ambient concentrations and deposition of oxidised sulphur compounds; and
 - b) Calculations of sulphur budgets.Parties in areas outside the geographical scope of EMEP shall make available similar information if requested to do so by the Executive Body.
4. The Executive Body shall, in accordance with Art. 10, paragraph 2 b), of the convention, arrange for the preparation of information on the effects of depositions of oxidised sulphur and other acidifying compounds.
5. The parties shall, at sessions of the Executive Body, arrange for the preparation, at regular intervals, of revised information on calculated and internationally optimized allocations of emission reductions for the States within the geographical scope of EMEP, with integrated assessment models, with a view to reducing further, for the purposes of Art. 2, paragraph 1, of the present Protocol, the difference between actual depositions of oxidised sulphur compounds and critical load values.'

4.2. Convention for the protection of the ozone layer, montreal protocol and amendments

Convention Secretariat	Nairobi, KENIA UNEP, Ozone Secretariat PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 2 621234/623601 Fax: +254 2 623913/521930 e-mail: madhava.sarma@unep.org, ozoneinfo@unep.org Gilly.Bankobeza@unep.org Seba.Galina@unon.org
Depositary	United Nations Organisation – Secretary-General
Signature, time and place of adoption	Convention: 22 March 1985, Vienna Protocol: 16 September 1987, Montreal London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol: 29 June 1990 Copenhagen Amendment: 25 November 1992 Montreal Amendment: 1997
Entry into force	Art. 17: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 20 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Any protocol, except as otherwise provided in such protocol, shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 11 th instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of such protocol or accession thereto'. Convention: 22 September 1988 Protocol: 1 January 1989 London Amendment: 10 August 1992 Copenhagen Amendment: 14 June 1994 Montreal Amendment: 10 November 1999
European Community signature and entry into force	Convention: 22 March 1985; 15 January 1989 Protocol: 16 September 1987; 16 March 1989 London Amendment: 10 August 1992 (entry into force) Copenhagen Amendment: 18 February 1996 (entry into force)
Status of participation	Vienna Convention: 173 ratifications Montreal Protocol: 172 ratifications London Amendment: 136 ratifications Copenhagen Amendment: 101 ratifications Montreal Amendment: 29 ratifications
Last Conference of the parties	Fifth Meeting of the parties to the convention was held in conjunction with the 11 th Meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol, December 1999, Beijing, China
Next Conference of the parties	Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Vienna Convention will be held in 2000, in conjunction with the Fourteenth Meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol, 11-15 December 2000, Burkina Faso
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to all States and regional economic integration organisations. Geographic scope: Global.
Aims of the convention	- The protection of human health and environment against adverse effects resulting from human activities that modify the ozone layer. - The adoption of agreed measures to control human activities found to have adverse effects on the ozone layer. - Cooperation in scientific research and systematic observations. - Exchange of information in legal, scientific, and technical fields.
Obligations of the parties	- Parties to the Vienna Convention will, in accordance with the means at their disposal and their capabilities: a) cooperate by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange in order to better understand and assess the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and the effects on human health and the environment from modification of the ozone layer; b) adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures and cooperate in harmonising appropriate policies to control, limit, reduce or prevent human activities under their jurisdiction or control that could have adverse effects resulting from modification of the ozone layer; c) cooperate in the formulation and agreed measures, procedures and standards for the implementation of the convention; d) cooperate with competent international bodies to implement effectively the convention and protocols to which they are party (Art. 2 Vienna Convention). - Parties to the Montreal Protocol are committed to: a) control measures to reduce production and consumption of specific substances; b) control trade with non-Parties; c) regularly scheduled assessment and review of control measures; d) reporting of data; e) cooperation in research, development, public awareness and exchange of information; f) establishment of a financial mechanism and transfer of technology to assist developing countries. If a developing country considers itself unable to comply with control

	<p>measures because of inadequate financial or technological assistance provided under the protocol, it may notify the Ozone Secretariat and the parties can consider not invoking non-compliance procedures against the notifying party.</p> <p>As amended by the 1990 second meeting of the parties in London, commitments on measures relating to substances that deplete the ozone layer involve the phase out of a specified list of CFCs and halons and of carbon tetrachloride by the year 2000. They involve also the phase-out of methyl chloroform by 2005, with scheduled interim reductions for each of the above classes of chemicals.</p> <p>The London amendment stipulates the reduction of consumption and production of CFCs by 50 % in 1995, by 85 % in 1997, and by 100 % in 2000. The 1992 meeting of the parties adopted the Copenhagen Amendment to bring forward the phase-out of CFCs and carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform by four or more years. The parties agreed to bring also the phase-out of methyl bromide. The new agreement also stipulates that industrialised countries should phase out halons by January 1994 instead of January 2000 and HCFCs by 2030.</p> <p>Beginning in 1990, and at least every four years thereafter, the parties will assess the control measures provided for in the Protocol in the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical and economic information.</p>
Financial issues	<p>The Vienna Convention Trust Fund and Montreal Protocol Trust Fund are intended to ensure adequate finance for the Ozone Secretariat to service the meetings and to promote the participation of developing countries. The Interim Multilateral Fund was established in 1990 to meet agreed incremental costs to developing countries of implementing the control measures. The United Nations Development programme, the World Bank and UNEP serve as implementing agencies of the Fund. UNEP also serves as treasurer.</p> <p>The London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol provided for the creation of a Financial Mechanism to assist developing countries. The Financial Mechanism includes a Multilateral Fund (which is the former Interim Fund) and other multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation. The Fund meets the incremental costs of the parties operating under Art. 5 of the Protocol (developing countries) to implement the control measures of the Protocol and finances all clearing house functions i.e. country studies, technical assistance, information, training and costs of the Fund Secretariat.</p>
Sources on the internet	<p>http://www.unep.org/unep/secretar/ozone/home.htm</p> <p>http://www.unep.ch/ozone</p>

Reporting obligations under the convention

Each party to the Vienna Convention reports every two years to the Secretariat a summary of measures undertaken in the various categories of scientific research and cooperation. These are reviewed and discussed at the Conference of the parties every three years.

The Conference of the parties to the Vienna Convention in 1993 decided that a party would have fulfilled its reporting obligations under the convention if it fulfilled its reporting obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Compliance with obligations under the Montreal Protocol is measured through specific reporting requirements. Compliance in general is monitored through consultations among the parties and with the Secretariat, and through deliberations of the annual Meeting of the parties.

Under the title: 'Information Exchange' Annex II of the Vienna Convention contains the following requirements:

1. 'The parties to the convention recognise that the collection and sharing of information is an important means of implementing the objectives of this convention and of assuring that any actions that may be taken are appropriate and equitable. Therefore, parties shall exchange scientific, technical, socio-economic, business, commercial and legal information.

2. The parties to the convention, in deciding what information is to be collected and exchanged, should take into account the usefulness of the information and the costs of obtaining it. The parties further recognise that cooperation under this Annex has to be consistent with national laws, regulations and practices regarding patents, trade secrets, and protection of confidential and proprietary information.

3. Scientific information
This includes information on:
 - a) Planned and ongoing research, both governmental and private, to facilitate the coordination of research programmes to make the most effective use of available national and international resources.
 - b) The emission data needed for research.
 - c) Scientific results published in peer-reviewed literature on the understanding of the physics and chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere and of its susceptibility to change, in particular on the state of the ozone layer and effects on human health, environment and climate which would result from changes on all time-scales in either the total column content or the vertical distribution of ozone.
 - d) The assessment of research results and the recommendations for future research.

4. Technical information
This includes information on:
 - a) The availability and cost of chemical substitutes and of alternative technologies to reduce the emissions of ozone-modifying substances and related planned and ongoing research.
 - b) The limitations and any risks involved in using chemical or other substitutes and alternative technologies.

5. Socio-economic and commercial information on the substances referred to in Annex I
This includes information on:
 - a) Production and production capacity.
 - b) Use and use patterns.
 - c) Imports/exports.
 - d) The costs, risks and benefits of human activities which may indirectly modify the ozone layer and of the impacts of regulatory actions taken or being considered to control these activities.

6. Legal information:
This includes information on:
 - a) National laws, administrative measures and legal research, relevant to the protection of the ozone layer
 - b) International agreements, including bilateral agreements, relevant to the protection of the ozone layer
 - c) Methods and terms of licensing and availability of patents relevant to the protection of the ozone layer.'

Parties to the Protocol provide the Secretariat with annual statistical data, through specific forms, on production and on imports and exports of controlled substances, including imports and exports to parties and non-parties (Art. 7 of the Montreal Protocol).

This Article is amended by the London and the Copenhagen Amendments in the following way:

1. 'Each party shall provide to the Secretariat, within the three months of becoming a party, statistical data on its production, imports and exports of each of the controlled substances in Annex A for the year 1986, or the best possible estimates of such data where actual data are not available.

2. Each party shall provide to the Secretariat statistical data on its production, imports and exports of each of the controlled substances: in Annexes B and C, for the year 1989; in Annex E, for the year 1991; or the best possible estimates of such data where actual data are not available, not later than three months after the date when the provisions set out in the Protocol with regard to the substances in Annexes B, C and E respectively enter into force for that party.

3. Each party shall provide to the Secretariat statistical data on its annual production (as defined in paragraph 5 of Art. 1) of each of the controlled substances listed in Annexes A, B, C and E and, separately, for each substance:
 - Amounts used for feedstocks.
 - Amounts destroyed by technologies approved by the parties.
 - Imports from and exports to parties and non-parties respectively, for the year during which provisions concerning the substances in Annexes A, B, C and E respectively entered into force for that party and for each year thereafter.Data shall be forwarded not later than nine months after the end of the year to which the data relate.

3. (cont.) Each party shall provide to the Secretariat separate statistical data of its annual imports and exports of each of the controlled substances listed in Group II of Annex A and Group I of Annex C that have been recycled.

4. For parties operating under the provisions of paragraph 8 a) of Art. 2, the requirements in paragraph 1, 2, 3 and 3 (cont.) of this Art. in respect of statistical data on imports and exports shall be satisfied, if the regional economic integration organisation concerned provides data on imports and exports between the organisation and States that are not members of that organisation’.

The Secretariat and the Implementation Committee review the data in national reports under the non-compliance procedure of the Montreal Protocol, elected by meetings of the parties.

The reports are prepared in such a way that the information declared as confidential by the parties at the time of their reporting is not revealed. The reports contain enough information for any reader to verify the compliance of the parties with the Protocol.

The European Union, as a party to the Montreal Protocol, has been one of the best parties which reports data and relevant information to the Secretariat regularly.

4.3. United nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC)

Convention Secretariat	Bonn Germany Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) Haus Carstanjen Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8.D-53175 Bonn Tel: +41 228 8151000 Fax: +41 228 8151999 secretariat@unfccc.de
Depositary	The Secretariat of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adoption: 9 May 1992, New York Signature: 4-14 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro and 20 June 1992-19 June 1993, New York
Entry into force	21 March 1994, 90 days after receipt of the 50 th ratification
Status of participation	One hundred and eighty parties on 29 September 1999 including the European Economic Community by 6 May 1998. Nine signatories without ratification acceptance or approval
Last Conference of the parties	COP 5, Bonn, 25 October–5 November 1999
Next Conference of the parties	COP 6, The Hague, 13-24 November 2000
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to member States of the UN or of its specialised agencies, or that are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and to regional integration organisations. Geographic scope: global
Amendments and additional protocols	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol), Kyoto, adopted on 11 December 1997, open for signature from 16 March 1998 to 15 March 1999. Entry into force: 90 th day after the 55 th ratification, including developed countries accounting for, at least, 55 % of developed country emissions. Not yet ratified
Aim of the convention	- To stabilise greenhouse-gas (GHG) concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change. -To ensure that food production is not threatened. -To enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.
Obligations of the parties	- To develop, periodically update, publish and make available to the COP, national inventories of emissions. - To formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing emissions, sinks, and reservoirs of GHGs and facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. - To promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion of technologies and practices to prevent GHG emissions. - To promote sustainable management, promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of all sinks and reservoirs of GHGs. - To promote and cooperate in scientific, technical, socio-economic, and other research, systematic observation, and development of data archives related to climate change.
Implementation	The COP shall keep under regular review the implementation of the UNFCCC and any related instruments that the conference may adopt, and shall make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the convention. With this aim, the COP shall: periodically examine the obligations of the parties; promote and facilitate the exchange of information, and the coordination, as appropriate, of, policies, strategies, and measures adopted by the parties to address climate change and its effects; promote and guide the development and periodic refinements of comparable methodologies; assess the implementation of the convention by the parties, the overall effects of the measures taken pursuant to the convention, in particular environmental, economic, and social effects, and the extent to which progress towards the objective of the convention is being achieved; consider and adopt regular reports on the implementation of the convention and ensure their publication; and seek to mobilise financial resources.
Financial issues	The convention defines a mechanism for providing financial resources for projects which address climate change. This financial mechanism is operated, on an interim basis and under the guidance of the COP, by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Projects supported by the GEF are implemented through three implementing agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank. The GEF provides resources for investment projects having global environmental benefits. It also supports the building of capacity of

	developing countries to implement the convention and prepare national communications. The GEF promotes bilateral and multilateral co-financing and leveraging of private sector participation and resources.
Information sources and publications	Up-to-date information on the convention is available through the UNFCCC Secretariat, or through the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change. Web page of the Secretariat http://www.unfccc.de

Reporting obligations under the convention

Art. 12 of the convention regulates the content of national communications on the implementation of the convention that each party is required to communicate to the Conference of the parties.

According to Art. 4 paragraph 1, each party shall communicate to the Conference of the parties the following elements of information:

- a) Each party shall communicate through the secretariat to the COP a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the parties (Art. 12.1a) of the convention.
- b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the party to implement the convention.
- c) Any other information that the party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including if feasible material relevant for calculation of global emission trends.

Additionally, each developed country and parties included in Annex I of the convention should also report the following elements:

- a) A detailed description of its policies and measures to mitigate climate change, by limiting its anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and protecting and enhancing its greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs.
- b) A specific estimate of the effects that the policies and measures referred to above will have on anthropogenic emissions by its sources and removals by its sinks of greenhouse gases by the end of the present decade, with the aim of returning individually or jointly to their 1990 levels.

Each developed country party included in Annex I and each other developed party included in Annex II, shall incorporate details of measures taken in accordance with Art. 4, paragraph 3, 4 and 5 relating to the transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources.

Developing country parties may, on a voluntary basis, propose projects for financing, including specific technologies, materials equipment, techniques or practices that would be needed to implement such projects, along with, if possible, an estimate of all incremental costs of the reductions of emissions and increments of removals of greenhouse gases, as well as an estimate of the consequent benefits.

Developed country parties and each other party included in Annex I shall make its initial communication within six months of the entry into force of the convention for it, and periodically thereafter as determined by the Conference of the parties.

The rest of the parties shall make their initial communication within three years of the entry into force of the convention for that party, or of the availability of financial resources in accordance with Art. 4 paragraph 3.

Least developed country parties may make their initial communication at their discretion.

4.3.1 Kyoto protocol to the united nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC)

Convention Secretariat	Bonn, GERMANY Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) Haus Carstanjen Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8.D-53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: +49 228 8151000 Fax: +49 228 8151999 e-mail: secretariat@unfccc.de (personal e-mail with 1 st initial last name@unfccc.de)
Depository	The Secretariat of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted 11 December 1997 at COP 3, Kyoto Open for Signature 16 March 1998-15 March 1999, New York
Entry into force	Not yet in force Entry into force: On the 90 th day after the date on which not less than 55 parties to the convention, incorporating Annex I parties which accounted in total for at least 55 % of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 from that group have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
European Community accession and entry into force	Not yet ratified
Status of participation	As at 13 January 2000, 84 parties have signed the Kyoto Protocol and 22 have deposited their instrument of ratification or accession.
Last Conference of the parties	
Next Conference of the parties	
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to member States of the UN or its specialised agencies or that are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and to regional integration organisations. Geographic scope: general
Amendments and additional protocols	
Aim of the convention	To strengthen the UNFCCC by adding new, more detailed commitments.
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall individually or jointly ensure that their aggregate anthropogenic carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of the GHGs listed in Annex A do not exceed their assigned amount, calculated pursuant to their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments inscribed in annex B and the provision of Art. 3, with a view to reducing their overall emissions of such gases by at least 5 % below 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008-2012 according to the reduction emission target assigned to each party included in Annex I. Each party included in Annex I shall, by 2005 have made demonstrable progress in achieving its commitments. The net changes in greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from direct human-induced land use change and forestry activities, limited to afforestation, reforestation and deforestation since 1990, measured as verifiable changes in carbon stocks in each commitment period, shall be used to meet the commitments under this article. of each party included in Annex I. The greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks associated with those activities shall be reported in a transparent and verifiable manner and reviewed in accordance with Arts 7 and 8. Prior to the first meeting of the COP, serving as the Meeting of the parties to the Protocol, each party included in Annex I shall provide for consideration by the SBSTA, data to establish its level of carbon stocks in subsequent years. The COP serving as the MOP shall, at its first session or as soon as practicable thereafter, decide upon modalities, rules and guidelines as to how, and which additional human induced activities related to changes in greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the agricultural soils and the land-use change and emissions and forestry categories shall be added to, or subtracted from, the assigned amount for parties included in Annex I, taking into account uncertainties, transparency in reporting, verifiability, the methodological work of the SBSTA in accordance with Art. 5 and the decisions of the COP. Any emission reduction units or any part of an assigned amount which a party acquires from another party in accordance with the provisions of Art. 6 or of Art. 17 shall be added to the assigned amount for the acquiring party. Any emission reductions units, or any part of an assigned amount which a party transfers to another party shall be subtracted from the assigned amount for

	<p>the transferring party. Any certified emission reductions which a party acquires from another party in accordance with the provisions of Art. 12 shall be added to the assigned amount for the acquiring party.</p> <p>If the emissions of a party included in Annex I in a commitment period are less than its assigned amount, this difference shall on request of that party, be added to the assigned amount for that party for subsequent commitments periods.</p> <p>Each party included in Annex I shall seek to implement its commitments in such a way as to minimise adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country parties.</p>
Sources on the internet	<p>Up-to-date information on the Kyoto Protocol is available through the UNFCCC Secretariat or through the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change</p> <p>Web Page of the Secretariat: http://www.unfccc.de</p>

Reporting obligations under the convention

National inventories

Each Annex I party shall incorporate in its annual inventory the supplementary information for the purposes of ensuring compliance with Art. 3 (Art. 7.1), beginning with the inventory due under the convention for the first year of the commitment period after this protocol has entered into force for that party (Art. 7.3). This information should be submitted annually.

This information shall be reviewed as part of the annual compilation and accounting of emissions inventories and assigned amount. (Art. 8.1.)

National communications

All parties taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities, shall formulate, implement, publish and regularly update, national and where appropriate regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and to facilitate adaptation. Such programmes would concern energy, transport and industry as well as agriculture, forestry and waste management (Art.10.b.1).

Annex I parties shall incorporate according to Art. 7 in their national communications, the necessary supplementary information for the purposes of ensuring compliance with Art. 3 (in accordance with guidelines adopted by the COP (Arts 10 b.ii, 7.2, 7.4)). This information should be included as part of the first national communication due under the convention after this protocol has entered into force for it and after the adoption of guidelines. The frequency of submission of such information should be determined by the COP. This information submitted shall be reviewed as part of the review of communications (Art. 8.1).

All parties shall include in their national communications information on programmes and activities undertaken pursuant to this Art. 10 (Art. 10(f)).

Each Annex I party shall have in place, not later than one year prior to the first commitment period, a national system for the estimation of emissions/removals. Guidelines for such a system should be decided by the COP.

Guidelines and methodologies for reporting

Methodologies shall be those accepted by IPCC, regularly reviewed and accepted by the COP (Art. 5.1 and 5.2).

Parties shall formulate programmes to improve the quality of local emission factors activity data and /or models for the preparation and periodic updating of national inventories using methodologies agreed upon by the COP and consistent with the guidelines for national communications (Art. 10(a)).

Section 5. Industry/hazardous substances and wastes

5.1. Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (Basel convention)

Convention Secretariat	Châtelaine, SWITZERLAND Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SCB) Geneva Executive Centre 15 chemin des Anémones, Building D CH-1219 Châtelaine Tel: +41 22 9178301/41229178218 Fax: +41 22 7973454 e-mail: bulsikai@unep.ch sbc@unep.ch
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 28)
Signature, time and place of adoption	22 March 1989, Basel
Entry into force	5 May 1992 Art. 25: 'This convention shall enter into force on the 90 th day after the date of deposit of the 20 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, formal confirmation, approval or accession'
European Community signature and entry into force	22 March 1989; 8 May 1994
Status of the parties	One hundred and thirty-three parties (as of 11 November 1999). Three signatories without ratification. Seventeen ratifications of the amendments to the Basel Convention (on 11 November 1999). Sixty-two parties must ratify the Ban Amendment for it to enter into force.
Last Conference of the parties	Fifth Conference of the parties, Basel, Switzerland, 6-10 December 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Not yet decided
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to all States and political and/or economic regional organisations Geographic scope: global Wastes subject to 'hazardous wastes' are defined in Art. 2 of the convention.
Amendments and additional protocols	Amendments to the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Geneva, 22 September 1995. Not yet in force. Eight States and the European Economic Community had ratified by 15 April 1998. The basic objective is to halt exports of hazardous wastes for final disposal, recovery, or recycling from developed countries to developing countries.
Aims of the convention	- Control and reduction of transboundary movements of wastes subject to the convention to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management. - Minimisation of the hazardous wastes generated, ensuring their environmentally sound management, including disposal and recovery operations, as close as possible, to the source of generation. - Assistance of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate.
Obligations of the parties	Parties shall (Art. 4): - Not allow the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal within the area south of 60°S, whether or not such wastes are subject to transboundary movement. - Prohibit the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes if the State of import does not consent in writing to the specific import, in the case where that State of import has not prohibited the import to such wastes. - Prohibit all persons, under their national jurisdiction, from transporting or disposing of hazardous wastes or other type of waste, unless such persons are authorised or allowed to perform such types of operations. - Designate or establish one or more competent authorities and one focal point. Parties of export shall not allow the generator of hazardous wastes or other wastes to commence the transboundary movement until the receipt of written confirmation of the written consent of the state of import. Parties shall adopt technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes subject to the convention. Waste exports are allowed only if the country of export does not have the technical capacity or suitable disposal sites and provided that the country of import has this capacity and facilitates, in order to ensure environmentally sound disposal of the waste.

Financial issues	<p>Implementation of the convention and expenditures of the Secretariat are fully financed from contributions by the parties to the two trust funds established under the Basel Convention.</p> <p>Parties agreed to pay their contributions on the basis of the UN scale of assessment to one of the trust funds, namely the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Basel Convention. Parties and non-parties may provide voluntary contributions to the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.</p> <p>An emergency Trust Fund to assist developing countries in the event of a waste emergency is being considered, as well as compensation Fund to be linked to the proposed protocol on liability and compensation.</p>
Linkages with other environmental or general conventions	<p>-Convention on the Ban of the import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa</p> <p>-Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region</p> <p>-Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region</p>
Sources on the internet	http://www.unep.ch/basel

Reporting obligations under the convention

Before the end of each calendar year, the parties shall transmit, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the parties, a report on the previous calendar year which, inter alia, will contain information on the measures adopted by them in the implementation of the convention, including the following:

- a) Competent authorities and focal points that have been designated by them pursuant to Art. 5.
- b) Information regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which they have been involved, including:
 - i) The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country and disposal method as stated on the response to notification.
 - ii) The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported, their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods.
 - iii) Disposals which did not proceed as intended.
 - iv) Efforts to achieve a reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes or other wastes subject to transboundary movement.
- c) Information on the measures adopted by them in the implementation of this convention.
- d) Information on available qualified statistics which have been compiled by them on the effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes
- e) Information concerning bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements entered into, pursuant to Art. 11 of this convention.
- f) Information on accidents occurring during the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes and on the measures undertaken to deal with them.
- g) Information on disposal options operated within the area of their national jurisdiction.
- h) Information on measures undertaken for development of technologies for the reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes.
- i) Such other matters as the Conference of the parties shall deem relevant.

The Secretariat must verify any breach, and the party, which acted in breach of its obligation upon the request of any other party, must submit all relevant information pertaining to the breach.

Parties shall notify the Secretariat of any bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes with parties or non-Parties, provided that such agreements or arrangements do not derogate from the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes as required by this convention(Art. 11).

The parties shall, whenever it comes to their knowledge, ensure that, in case of an accident occurring during the transboundary movement of wastes likely to present risks to human health and the environment in other States, those States are immediately informed (Art. 13).

The parties shall inform each other, through the Secretariat, of:

- a) Changes regarding the designation of competent authorities and/or focal points, pursuant to Art. 5.
- b) Changes in their national definition of hazardous wastes, pursuant to Art. 3.
- c) As soon as possible, decisions made by them not to consent totally or partially to the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal within the area under their national jurisdiction.
- d) Decisions taken by them to limit or ban the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes.
- e) Any other information required pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Article.

The parties, consistent with national laws and regulations, shall ensure that copies of each notification concerning any given transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes, and the response to it, are sent to the Secretariat when a party considers that its environment may be affected by that transboundary movement.

Annex V refers to reporting obligations, and its text is the following:

Annex V-A. Information to be provided on notification:

1. Reason for waste export.
2. Exporter of the waste.
3. Generator(s) of the waste and site of generation.
4. Disposer of the waste and actual site of disposal.
5. Intended carrier(s) of the waste or their agents, if known.
6. Country of export of the waste
Competent authority.
7. Expected countries of transit
Competent authority.
8. Country of import of the waste
Competent authority.
9. General or single notification.
10. Projected date(s) of shipment(s) and period of time over which waste is to be exported and proposed itinerary (including point of entry and exit).
11. Means of transport envisaged (road, rail, sea, air, inland waters).
12. Information relating to insurance.
13. Designation and physical description of the waste, including Y number and UN number and its composition and information on any special handling requirements, including emergency provisions in case of accidents.
14. Type of packaging envisaged (e.g. bulk, drummed, tanker).
15. Estimated quantity in weight/volume.
16. Process by which the waste is generated.
17. For wastes listed in Annex I, classifications from Annex III: hazardous characteristics, H number, and UN class.
18. Method of disposal as per Annex IV.
19. Declaration by the generator and exporter that the information is correct.

20. Information transmitted (including technical description of the plant) to the exporter or generator from the disposer of the waste upon which the latter has based his assessment that there was no reason to believe that the wastes will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country of import.
21. Information concerning the contract between the exporter and disposer.
 - Full name and address, telephone, telex or telefax number and the name, address, telephone, telex or telefax number of the person to be contacted.
 - Full name and address, telephone, telex or telefax number.
 - In the case of a general notification covering several shipments, either the expected dates of each shipment or, if this is not known, the expected frequency of the shipments will be required.
 - Information to be provided on relevant insurance requirements and how they are met by exporter, carrier and disposer.
 - The nature and the concentration of the most hazardous components, in terms of toxicity and other dangers presented by the waste both in handling and in relation to the proposed disposal method.
 - In the case of a general notification covering several shipments, both the estimated total quantity and the estimated quantities for each individual shipment will be required.
 - In so far as this is necessary to assess the hazard and determine the appropriateness of the proposed disposal operation.

Annex V-B. Information to be provided on the movement document:

1. Exporter of the waste.
2. Generator(s) of the waste and site of generation.
3. Disposer of the waste and actual site of disposal.
4. Carrier(s) of the waste or his agent(s).
5. Subject of general or single notification.
6. The date the transboundary movement started and date(s) and signature on receipt by each person who takes charge of the waste.
7. Means of transport (road, rail, inland waterway, sea, air), including countries of export, transit and import, also point of entry and exit where these have been designated.
8. General description of the waste (physical state, proper UN shipping name and class, UN number, Y number and H number as applicable).
9. Information on special handling requirements, including emergency provision in case of accidents.
10. Type and number of packages.
11. Quantity in weight/volume.
12. Declaration by the generator or exporter that the information is correct.
13. Declaration by the generator or exporter indicating no objection from the competent authorities of all States concerned which are Parties.
14. Certification by disposer of receipt at designated disposal facility and indication of method of disposal and of the approximate date of disposal. The information required on the movement document shall, where possible, be integrated in one document with that required under transport rules. Where this is not possible, the information should complement rather than duplicate that required under the transport rules. The movement document shall carry instructions as to who is to provide information and fill out any form.
 - Full name and address, telephone, telex or telefax number and the name, address, telephone, telex or telefax number of the person to be contacted in case of emergency.

Section 6. General

6.1. Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context	
Convention Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND UN/ECE, Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS) Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10 Tel: +41 22 9172448 Fax: +41 22 907107 e-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation
Signature, time and place of adoption	25 February 1991, Spoo, Finland
Entry into force	10 September 1997 Art. 18: 'This convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the 16 th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession'
European Community signature and entry into force	26 February 1991; 22 September 1997
Status of participation	Thirty signatures, including the European Community, and 28 ratifications including the European Community
Last Conference of the parties	18-20 May 1998, Oslo, Norway (The meeting will take place once every two years)
Next Conference of the parties	9-14 October 2000, Sofia, Bulgaria
Scope of the convention	Legal scope (Art. 16): open to member Countries of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Union and other European States having consultative status with the UN/ECE. Geographic scope: regional. UN/ECE region (Europe and North America).
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aims of the convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance international cooperation in assessing environmental impacts, in particular in a transboundary context. - To promote environmentally sound and sustainable development. - To support the development of anticipatory policies and of measures preventing, mitigating, and monitoring significant adverse environmental impacts in general and, more specifically, in a transboundary context. - To promote measures taken at an early planning stage of proposed activities aimed at preventing potentially harmful environmental impacts. - To make provision for notification among States concerned on all major projects under consideration that are likely to cause significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. - to promote public information and public participation in relevant decision-making processes.
Obligations of the parties	<p>Art. 2: Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities.</p> <p>Each party shall take necessary measures to implement the convention provisions, including the establishment of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure that permits public participation and preparation of EIA documentation described in Appendix II.</p> <p>An EIA has to be carried out before the decision is taken to authorise or undertake a proposed activity listed in Appendix I.</p> <p>The parties shall also endeavour to ensure that the EIA principles are applied to policies, plans, and programmes.</p>
Financial issues	Not applicable
Linkages with other environment or general conventions	None
Sources on the internet	http://www.unece.org/env/eia

Reporting obligations under the convention

For a proposed activity listed in Annex I of the convention that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the party of origin shall notify any party which it considers may be an affected party, as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity. This notification shall contain, inter alia (Art. 3):

- a) Information on the proposed activity, including any available information on its possible transboundary impact.
- b) The nature of the possible decision.
- c) An indication of a reasonable time within which a response from the other party about whether or not it intends to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure, taking into account the nature of the proposed activity.
- d) The notification may include:
 - Relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments.
 - Relevant information on the proposed activity and its possible significant adverse transboundary impact.

Where the notified party decides to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure, at the request of the party of origin, it shall provide it with reasonably obtainable information relating to the potentially affected environment under the jurisdiction of the affected party, where such information is necessary for the preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation. The information shall be furnished promptly and through a joint body where one exists.

When a party considers that it would be affected by a significant adverse transboundary impact of a proposed activity listed in Annex I of the convention, and when no notification has taken place, the concerned parties shall, at the request of the affected party, exchange sufficient information for the purposes of holding discussions on whether there is likely to be a significant adverse transboundary impact.

The concerned parties shall ensure that the public of the affected party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of, and be provided with, possibilities for making comments or objections on the proposed activity, and for the transmittal of these to the competent authority of the party of origin, either directly to this authority or, where appropriate, through the party of origin.

The environmental impact assessment documentation to be submitted to the competent authority of the party of origin shall contain, as a minimum, the following information:

- a) A description of the proposed activity and its purpose.
- b) A description, where appropriate, of reasonable alternatives (for example, location or technological) to the proposed activity and also the no-action alternative.
- c) A description of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed activity and its alternatives.
- d) A description of the potential environmental impact of the proposed activity and its alternatives and an estimation of its significance.
- e) A description of mitigation measures to keep adverse environmental impact to a minimum.
- f) An explicit indication of predictive methods and underlying assumptions as well as the relevant environmental data used.

- g) An identification of gaps in knowledge and uncertainties encountered in compiling the required information.
- h) Where appropriate, an outline for monitoring and managing programmes and any plans for post-project analysis.
- i) A non-technical summary including a visual presentation as appropriate (maps, graphs, etc.).

The parties of origin shall furnish the affected party with the environmental impact assessment documentation. The concerned parties will arrange for distributing of documentation to the authorities and the public of the affected party in the areas likely to be affected and submitting of comments to the competent authority of the party of origin.

6.2. Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters

Convention Secretariat	Geneva, SWITZERLAND Environment and Human Settlements Divisions (ENHS) Palais des Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva, 10 Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 2373/3158 Fax: +41 22 907 0107 e-mail: rainer.enderlein@unece.org
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Signature, time and place of adoption	25 June 1998, Aarhus, Denmark Art. 17: 'This convention shall be open for signature at Aarhus (Denmark) on June 1998, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 21 December 1998, by States Members of the Economic Commission for Europe as well as States having consultative status with the Economic Commission for Europe pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 11 of Economic and Social Council Resolution 36 (IV) of March 1947, and by regional economic integration organisations constituted by sovereign States Members of the Economic Commission for Europe to which their member States have transferred competence over matters governed by this convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of these matters'
Entry into force	The Committee on Environmental Policy's goal is for the convention to enter into force by the year 2000.
European Community accession and entry into force	25 June 1998; Not yet in force
Status of participation	Thirty-nine countries and the European Community
LAST CONFERENCE OF THE SIGNATORIES	First, 19-21 April 1999, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Next Conference of the parties	Spring of the year 2000
Scope of the convention	Global
Amendments and additional protocols	None
Aim of the convention	In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate for his or her health and well-being, each party shall guarantee the rights of access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this convention Art. 1.
Obligations of the parties	Each party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures, including measures to establish and maintain a clear, transparent and consistent framework to implement the provisions of this convention. Each party shall endeavour to ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide guidance to the public in seeking access to information, in facilitating participation in decision-making and in seeking access to justice in environmental matters. Each party shall promote environmental education and environmental awareness among the public, especially on how to obtain access to information, to participate in decision-making and to obtain access to justice in environmental matters. Each party shall provide for appropriate recognition of and support to associations, organisations and groups promoting environmental protection and ensure that its national legal system is consistent with this obligation. Each party shall promote the application of the principles of this convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organisations in matters relating to the environment. Each party shall ensure that persons exercising their rights in conformity with the provisions of this convention shall not be penalised, persecuted or harassed in any way for their involvement. This provision shall not affect the powers of national courts to award reasonable costs in judicial proceedings. Within the scope of the relevant provisions of this convention, the public shall have access to information, have the possibility to participate in decision-making and have access to justice in environmental matters without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.
Financial issues	The meeting of the parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis. The first meeting of the signatories of the convention took place with financial support from the Governments of Italy and Austria.

Linkages with other general or environmental conventions	The first meeting of the signatories of the convention adopted that the Committee will be requested to consider holding a workshop on links between the Aarhus Convention and other conventions. The text of the convention: Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment Rio Declaration on the Environment and Declaration on Environment and Development ECE Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context, Spoo, Finland, 25 February 1991 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Helsinki, 17 March 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Helsinki, 17 March 1992 Other regional conventions
Sources on the internet	http://www.unece.org http://www.mem.dk/aarhus-conference/

Reporting obligations under the convention

Each party shall, at regular intervals not exceeding three or four years, publish and disseminate a national report on the state of the environment, including information on the quality of the environment and information on pressures on the environment (Art. 5.4).

Each party shall provide in an appropriate form information on the performance of public functions or the provision of public services relating to the environment by government at all levels.

Each party shall ensure that environmental information, in particular reports on the state of the environment, progressively becomes available in electronic databases which are easily accessible to the public through public telecommunications networks

At their meetings, the parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this convention on the basis of regular reporting by the parties, and, with this purpose in mind shall:

- 1) Review the policies and the legal and methodological approaches to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, with a view to further improving them.
- 2) Exchange information regarding experience gained in concluding and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements or other arrangements having relevance to the purposes of this convention and to which one or more of the parties are party.
- 3) Seek, where appropriate, the services of relevant ECE bodies and other competent international bodies and specific committees in all aspects pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of this convention.
- 4) Establish such subsidiary bodies as they deem necessary.
- 5) Prepare, where appropriate, protocols to this convention.
- 6) Consider and adopt proposals for amendments to this convention in accordance with the provisions of Art. 14.
- 7) Consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of this convention.
- 8) At their first meeting, consider rules of procedure for their meetings and the meetings of subsidiary bodies.
- 9) At their first meeting, review their experience in implementing the provisions of Art. 5, paragraph 9, and consider what steps are necessary to develop further the system referred to in that paragraph, taking into account international processes and developments, including the elaboration of an appropriate instrument concerning pollution release and transfer registers or inventories which could be annexed to this convention.

6.3. United Nations convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa	
Convention Secretariat	UNCCD Secretariat PO Box 260129 Haus Carstanjen D-53153 Bonn, Germany Tel: +49 228 815 2800 Fax: +49 228 815 2898/99 E- mail: secretariat@unccd.de
Depositary	Secretary-General of the United Nations (Art. 39)
Signature, time and place of adoption	Adopted 17 June 1994 and opened for signature in Paris, 14-15 October 1994
Entry into force	26 December 1996 (Art. 36)
European Community accession and entry into force	Ratification by the EC: 26 March 1998 Entry into force: 24 June 1998
Status of participation	One hundred and sixty contracting parties
Last Conference of the parties	Third Conference of the parties, Recife, Brazil, 15-26 November 1999
Next Conference of the parties	Fourth Conference of the parties, Bonn, Germany, 16-27 October 2000, unless no other party makes, before 29 February 2000, an offer to host that session
Scope of the convention	Legal scope: open to all member States of the UN or any of its specialised agencies, parties to the Statute of International Court of Justice, and regional economic integration organisations. Geographical scope: global
Amendments and additional protocols	A draft additional regional implementation annex for countries of Central and Eastern Europe is at the consultation stage
Aim of the convention	To combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and in countries experiencing drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas
Obligations of the parties	General obligations of the parties under the convention (Art. 4): '1. The parties shall implement their obligations under this convention, individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate, emphasising the need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long-term strategy at all levels. 2. In pursuing the objective of this convention, the parties shall: a) Adopt an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought. b) Give due attention, within the relevant international and regional bodies, to the situation of affected developing country parties with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debt with a view to establishing an enabling international economic environment conducive to the promotion of sustainable development. c) Integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. d) Promote cooperation among affected country parties in the fields of environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources, as they relate to desertification and drought. e) Strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation. f) Cooperate with relevant intergovernmental organizations; g) Determine institutional mechanisms, if appropriate, keeping in mind the need to avoid duplication. h) Promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilise and channel substantial financial resources to developing country parties affected in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought...' Arts 5 and 6 establish specific obligations related to 'affected country parties' and 'developed country parties'.
Financial issues	The convention is chiefly financed by contracting parties' contributions, other contributions made by States not parties to the convention, contributions made by parties in addition to those pursuant to the ones above-mentioned, the uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned and miscellaneous income.
Linkages with other general or environmental conventions	Art. 8 of the convention encourages coordinated activities with, notably, the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biodiversity. To this end the Secretariat has concluded a memorandum of understanding with UNFCCC, CBD and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), as well as with others UN organisations.
Sources on the internet	http://www.unccd.de/

Reporting obligations under the convention

The objectives of data reporting are agreed by the parties (formal objective). As country reports are presented these objectives should evolve, as has already occurred in many other environmental treaties. The first reporting session took place in November 1999 during the third Conference of the parties and involved affected African countries. Many African countries (41 in total) presented their national, regional and subregional reports.

Documents streamlining the reporting obligations of the parties

- See Art. 22 paragraph 2(a) and (d) and Art. 26 paragraph 1.
- Decision 5/COP.2.
- Decision 11/COP.1, paragraphs 10 (format and content of reports), 12 (language of reports) and 13 (timetable for the submission of reports).

Documents analysing the problems of the reporting systems of the convention

As mentioned above, the first session where the COP had the opportunity of reviewing and analysing the reporting process was in November 1999. As a result of this experience, the COP decided to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse, in depth, at its coming session, reports submitted at its third session and reports which will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the convention (Decision 6/COP.3).

Common format or existing guidelines for reporting

The first session of COP 1, held in Rome from September 29 to October 10, established document ICCD/COP (1)/2 (Decision 11) on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation for national reports (pages 3ff) containing four report formats: reports on national action programmes; reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes; reports of developed country parties; and reports of affected developed country parties not preparing action programmes.

The UNCCD National Reports Help Guide is contained in Document COP3/Inf.3 of 23 July 1999.

Reports presented presently and date of the latest report submitted

As mentioned above, 41 African countries presented national reports at COP3. In addition, several developed countries presented reports on measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes. This year, affected country parties of other regions, e.g., Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and other affected countries will present their reports at the fourth session of the Conference of the parties.

Proportion of national reports submitted by all parties

It is important to point out that not all parties have the duty of presenting national reports. Only affected parties have to comply with this provision. Developed country parties, on the other hand, present reports in which they communicate measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on financial resources. There is, however, a special category of country parties, which are, at the same time, affected and developed countries, such as Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. These countries have to observe both obligations: to present a national report and a further report as a developed country party.

The EU presented a report as an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) on Africa at COP3, which is summarised in documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add1 and ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add1(A)².

To date, 41 out of 52 affected African country parties and four subregional organisations³ have presented national reports, and several parties have also submitted their developed country party reports.

Quality of data submitted specifically by the European Union

The EU affected countries (Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal) have not yet presented their country reports. However, most of the EU countries as well as the EU (as an IGO) have prepared reports as developed countries (report of developed country parties).

Periodicity of reporting and next deadline to report

At the third COP African countries presented their national reports. At its fourth session, the COP shall examine the reports of affected country parties of other regions.

In this sense, read decision 11/COP.1, paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 establishes a timetable for the submission of reports; 16 and 17 on compilation and synthesis by the Permanent Secretariat, and 19 on periodic reports. Mention has to be made to the fact that review of the reports submitted by parties is alternated between affected African country parties and affected country parties of other regions. Furthermore, the COP decided that the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions of the Conference of the parties shall be held yearly, and thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years.

2. See Official documents, Third Session of the COP.

3 L'Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), le Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutter contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

4. Main reporting obligations under the most relevant environmental conventions ratified by the EU¹

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties Involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Part I – 1. Water – international rivers and lakes						
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (17.03.1992)	Art. 17	From parties	General report	At the Meeting of the parties	Parties shall exchange information regarding experience gained in concluding and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements regarding the protection and use of transboundary waters to which one or more of the parties are party.	
	Art. 4 and 6	From parties	Report on programmes for monitoring the condition of transboundary waters	As early as possible	The parties shall provide information related to programmes for monitoring the condition of transboundary waters and in general on issues covered by the provisions of the convention.	
	Art. 5 and 6	From parties	Exchange of information on research and development	As early as possible	Parties shall exchange information on their research and development programme results on: a) Methods for the assessment of the toxicity of hazardous substances and the noxiousness of pollutants. b) Improved knowledge of the occurrence, distribution and environmental effects of pollutants and the processes involved. c) The development and application of environmentally sound technologies, production and consumption patterns. d) The phasing out and/or substitution of substances likely to have transboundary impact.	

¹ The decisions concerning the reorganisation of Helcom have now been made. As a result thereof the information on this report concerning the organigram and distribution of functions of different sectors is not correct any more. All substantive material is still valid, such as recommendations, proceedings etc.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
					<p>e) Environmentally sound methods of disposal of hazardous substances.</p> <p>f) Special methods for improving the conditions of transboundary waters.</p> <p>g) The development of environmentally sound water construction works and water regulation techniques.</p> <p>h) The physical and financial assessment of damage resulting from transboundary impact.</p>	
	Art. 13 and 9	From Riparian Parties Within the framework of general cooperation of this convention or specific arrangements	Exchange of information between Riparian Parties	Regularly	<p>The Riparian parties shall exchange reasonably data, inter alia, on:</p> <p>a) Environmental conditions of transboundary waters.</p> <p>b) Experience gained in the application and operation of best available technology and results of research and development:</p> <p>c) Emission and monitoring data.</p> <p>d) Measures taken and planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.</p> <p>e) Permits or regulations for wastewater discharges issued by the competent authority or appropriate body.</p>	<p>In order to harmonise emission limits, the Riparian parties shall undertake the exchange of information on their national regulations.</p> <p>If a Riparian party is requested by another Riparian party to provide data or information that is not available, the former shall endeavour to comply with the request but may condition its compliance upon the payment of reasonable charges.</p> <p>Riparian parties shall facilitate the exchange of best available technology.</p>

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 14	From Riparian Parties	Notification of critical situation. Warning alarm systems	Occasionally, without delay when a critical situation occurs	The Riparian parties shall without delay inform each other about any critical situation that may have transboundary impact.	The Riparian parties shall set up, where appropriate, and operate coordinated or joint communication, warning and alarm systems with the aim of obtaining and transmitting information. These systems shall operate on the basis of compatible data transmission and treatment procedures and facilities to be agreed upon by the Riparian Parties. The Riparian parties shall inform each other about competent authorities or points of contact designated for this purpose.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
2. Oceans and seas						
Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (09.04.1992, Helsinki)²	Art. 16.1	From contracting parties To the Commission	General report	Regularly	Parties shall report to the Commission on: The legal, regulatory or other measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of the convention, of its annexes and of recommendations adopted thereunder. The effectiveness of the measures taken to implement the provisions referred to in paragraph above. Problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions referred to in paragraph above.	Unified reporting systems
	Art. 16.2	From contracting parties	Exchange of information between Parties	When requested	On the request of a contracting party or of the Commission, the contracting parties shall provide information on: Discharge permits. Emission data. Data on environmental quality.	Unified reporting systems

² The decisions concerning the reorganisation of Helcom have now been made. As a result thereof the information on this report concerning the organigram and distribution of functions of different sectors is not correct any more. All substantive material is still valid, such as recommendations, proceedings etc.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 13	From contracting parties To contracting parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected	Notification of pollution incidents	Occasionally	Whenever a pollution incident in the territory of a contracting party is likely to cause pollution to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area outside its territory and adjacent maritime area in which it exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction according to international law, this contracting party shall notify without delay such contracting parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected.	Consultations should take place to prevent, reduce and control pollution, whenever deemed necessary by such parties
Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (22.09.1992, Paris)	Art. 22	From contracting parties To the Commission	National Report	Regularly	The reporting obligation includes: The legal, regulatory, or other measures taken by the parties for the implementation of the provisions of the convention and of decisions and recommendations adopted thereunder, including in particular measures taken to prevent and punish conduct in contravention of those provisions. The effectiveness of the measures taken. Problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions.	OSPAR established a Standard Implementation Reporting and Assessment Procedure to guide contracting parties in their reporting. This document is updated on a regular basis (Reference Number 1999-6)

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 8	From contracting parties To the Commission	Report on complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research	Unspecified	Parties shall transmit to the Commission: The results of such complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research. Details of other relevant programmes of scientific and chemical research. In so doing, the contracting parties shall have regard to the work carried out, in these fields, by the appropriate international organisations and agencies.	In accordance with a standard procedure
	Art. 21	From contracting parties	Consultation on transboundary pollution	Occasionally, when pollution originating from a contracting party is likely to prejudice the interests of one or more of the other contracting parties	The contracting parties concerned shall enter into consultation, at the request of any of them, when pollution originating from a contracting party is likely to prejudice the interests of one or more of the other contracting parties to the convention. At the request of any contracting party concerned, the Commission shall consider the question and may make recommendations with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution. An agreement referred to in Paragraph 1 of Article 21 may, inter alia, define the areas to which it shall apply, the quality objectives to be achieved and the methods for achieving these objectives, including methods for the application of appropriate standards and the scientific and technical information to be collected. The contracting parties signatory to such an agreement shall, through the medium of the Commission, inform the other contracting parties of its purport and of the progress made in putting it into effect.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (16.02.1976, Barcelona)	Art. 3	From parties To MEDU	Notification of agreements	Every two years (November 2001)	Agreement between contracting parties for the protection of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution to MEDU.	
	Art. 20	From parties To MEDU	Implementation report	Every two years (November 2001)	Reports of measures adopted in the implementation on this convention and its protocols to MEDU.	
	Art. 9	From parties To MEDU and to other parties likely to be affected	Notification of pollution emergency	Occasionally	Communication of awareness of any pollution emergency.	
Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Case of Emergency (16.02.1976, Barcelona).	Art. 6.1	From parties To other parties through REMPEC	Exchange of information between parties	Regularly	Each party undertakes to disseminate to the other parties information concerning: The competent national organisation or authorities responsible for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances. The competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between parties. New ways in which pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances may be avoided, new measures of combating pollution and the development of related research programmes.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 6.2.	From parties To REMPEC	Notification	Occasionally	Agreements to exchange information between parties directly.	
	Art. 9.1	Coordination with other parties	Notification	Immediately	Utilisation of means of communication in situations under Article 1 of the Protocol.	
	Art. 9.1	From parties To REMPEC	Notification to REMPEC	Immediately	Any party faced with cases of grave and imminent danger to the marine environment due to the presence of massive quantities of oil and harmful substances resulting from accidental causes or an accumulation of small discharges which are polluting or threatening to pollute the sea shall: Immediately inform all other parties, either directly or through the regional centre, of these assessments and of any action which it has taken or which it intends to take to combat the pollution. Continue to observe the situation for as long as possible and report thereon in accordance with Article 8.	
Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (16.02.1976, Barcelona)	Art. 7	From parties To MEDU	Report on permits to MEDU	Every two years (November 2001)	Report containing the general or special permits for dumping granted by national authorities. These permits must contain the factors established under the Annex to the Protocol.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 8	From parties To MEDU or directly to parties likely to be affected	Supply information to MEDU	Immediately	Prohibited dumping made in case of force majeure must be reported.	
	Art. 9	From parties To MEDU	Supply information to MEDU	Immediately	If prohibited dumping must be carried out in an emergency situation, this shall be advised to the Secretariat, which shall make recommendations. Follow-up measures adopted by the parties shall also be reported.	
	Art. 12	From parties To any other party concerned	Report	Occasionally	The contracting parties shall if they consider it appropriate, report to any other party concerned, any incidents or conditions in the Mediterranean Sea which give rise to suspicions that dumping in contravention of the provisions of the Emergency Protocol has occurred or is about to occur.	
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (17.05.1980, Athens)	Art. 13	From parties To MEDU	Parties inform one another via MEDU	Every two years (November 2001)	Results achieved and difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol. Communication of information containing: Statistical data on discharge authorisations granted according to Article 6. Data resulting from monitoring as provided by Article 8. Quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories. Measures, action plans and programmes undertaken in accordance with Article 5 (to eliminate pollution from LBS by substances in Annex I) and Article 6 (ditto by substances listed in Annex II)	Procedures for collection and submission of such information shall be determined by the meetings of the parties

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (03.04.1982, Geneva) ³ .	Art. 14	From parties To MEDU	Parties shall forward information to MEDU	Every two years (November 2001)	Parties shall forward to MEDU comparable information for monitoring the biological development of the Mediterranean environment, reports, publications and information of a scientific, administrative and legal nature, in particular in measures taken by the parties in pursuance of this protocol for the protection of the protected areas, on the species present in the protected areas and on any threats to those areas.	
	Art. 8	From parties To MEDU	Notification	Occasionally	Establishment of protected areas and buffer areas in which activities are less severely restricted while remaining compatible with the purposes of the protected areas.	
	Art. 9.2	From parties To MEDU	Notification	Occasionally	Exemptions allowed by the parties with regard to protective measures or when they do not apply such measures strictly.	

³ At the date of this publication the SPA Protocol has been replaced by the SPA & Biodiversity Protocol (date of entry into force: 12 December 1999)

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (13.09.1983, Bonn)	Art. 4	From contracting parties	General report	Unspecified	<p>The contracting parties undertake to inform the other contracting parties about:</p> <p>Their national organisation for dealing with pollution.</p> <p>The competent authority responsible for receiving and despatching reports of such pollution and for dealing with questions concerning measures of mutual assistance between contracting parties.</p> <p>Their national means for avoiding or dealing with such pollution, which might be made available for international assistance.</p> <p>New ways in which such pollution may be avoided and new effective measures to deal with it.</p> <p>Major pollution incidents of this kind dealt with.</p> <p>New developments in the technology of conducting surveillance.</p> <p>Their experience in the use of surveillance means and techniques in the detection of pollution and the prevention of violations of anti-pollution regulations, including use in cooperation with other contracting parties.</p> <p>Information of mutual interest derived from their surveillance activities.</p> <p>Their national programmes for surveillance, including cooperative arrangements with other contracting parties.</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	<p>Art. 5 and Art. 6 Bonn Agreement Counter Pollution Manual (Chapter 5)</p>	<p>From contracting party (through the national contact point of the contracting party informed of the accident or pollution). To the other contracting party through its competent authority.</p>	<p>Notification of incidents of marine pollution</p>	<p>Without delay. The first POLREP on a pollution incident should be sent out not later than the first official press release concerning that incident.</p>	<p>Notification of incidents of marine pollution: Whenever a contracting party is aware of an accident or the presence of oil or other harmful substances in the North Sea area likely to constitute a serious threat to the coast or related interests of any other contracting party, it shall inform that party without delay through its competent authority. The contracting party shall inform all the other contracting parties through their competent authorities of its assessments and of any action, which it has taken to deal with the oil and other harmful substances. The pollution reporting system shall contain all relevant information of the nature and extent of the accident or pollution likely to constitute a threat to the coast or related interests of any other contracting party, or which could be perceived by the public as representing a serious threat.</p>	<p>The contracting parties are recommended to use the POLREP system. The contracting parties to the Bonn Agreement shall use this system for transmission of warnings, information and matters related to assistance under Article 7 of the Bonn Agreement. The POLREP shall be transmitted in English without delay through the national contact point of the contracting party informed of the accident or pollution. POLREP should, to all possible extent, be addressed to all contracting parties having an interest in the incident, whether directly threatened or not, and to the Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement.</p>
	<p>Bonn Agreement Counter Pollution Manual (Chapter 6)</p>	<p>From contracting parties To contracting parties</p>	<p>Notification of 'natural' pollution incidents in the form of algal blooms</p>	<p>Occasionally, when a 'natural' pollution incident occurs</p>	<p>Notification of 'natural' pollution incidents of marine pollution.</p>	<p>A reporting system has been adopted by the Paris Commission (ALGPOLREP)</p>

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
		From contracting parties To the Bonn Agreement Meetings	General report	Annually, to the Bonn Agreement meetings (next meeting 20-22 September 2000)	Report to the Bonn Agreement meetings on e.g. results of annual aerial surveillance activities.	There are amended standard formats on e.g. results of annual aerial surveillance activities
	Counter Pollution Manual (Chapter 29)	From contracting parties To contracting parties	Reporting performance of counter-measures in pollution incidents	Occasionally	Reporting performance of counter-measures in pollution incidents.	At their 12th Meeting (Copenhagen, 1988) the contracting parties adopted new guidelines for reporting performance of counter-measures in pollution incidents (BA12/14/1, §. 7.15). The reporting format is not mandatory, but the contracting parties recommended that it should be used in order to report incidents

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Part II – 3. Nature protection– flora and fauna						
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts (13.09.1973, Gdansk) and Protocol to the Conference of the Representatives of the States parties to the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts (Warsaw, 9-11.11.1982)	Art. 12 and 9	From contracting parties To the Commission	General report	At such time required	Parties shall report to the Commission on the available statistical data and information (for example catch and fishing effort) as well as all actions taken within its territorial sea and in the waters under its fisheries jurisdiction on: Measures taken in regard to its nationals and its vessels to ensure the application of the provisions of this conventions and the recommendations by the Commission. Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission binding on the State through its national authorities, within its territorial sea and in the waters under its fisheries jurisdiction. Parties shall include information on control measures taken to ensure the application of the recommendations of the Commission	In the form required by the Commission

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 13	From contracting parties To the Commission	Report	Unspecified	Parties shall inform the Commission of their legislative measures and any agreements relating to the conservation and utilisation of fishery resources in the convention area.	
	IBSFC Fishery Rules (Rule 2)	From contracting parties To the Commission	Report	Yearly: Not later than 1 February. Not later than one month after the transaction.	Parties shall report to the Commission on: Quota transfers and exchange of quotas with other contracting parties or third countries (not later than 1 February). Any other quota transfers or quota exchanges (during the year not later than one month after the transaction).	
	IBSFC Fishery Rules (Rule 2)	From the relevant authorities of the authorising contracting parties To the IBSFC Secretariat	Communication	Prior to the commencement of the fishery	Conditions under which the fishery of vessels flying a flag other than the one of the contracting party in whose waters they are fishing can take place, specifying: The species. The quantities. The period of the fisheries. The name(s) of the vessels.	
	IBSFC Fishery Rules (Rule 2)	From contracting parties To Commission	Communication	Yearly	List of vessels authorised to fish cod in the Baltic Sea under its quota.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	IBSFC Fishery Rules (Rule 2)	From contracting parties To the Commission	Notification	Monthly, on the last day of each month for the preceding month	Parties shall notify the Commission of rate of utilisation of the Baltic total allowable catches. Contracting parties shall, for species managed by IBSFC TACs, provide the Commission with monthly catch statistics broken down by Fishery Zone and Management Area for fishing by their own vessels.	
	IBSFC Fishery Rules (Rule 2)	From contracting parties To other contracting parties through relevant authorities	Exchange or information	Monthly, on the last day of each month for the preceding month	Monthly statistics broken down by vessel, Fishery Zone, Management Area and species managed by IBSFC TACs for landings by vessels from the relevant contracting party, including landing of catches obtained under arrangements outside fisheries agreements between the contracting parties or with a third country.	
	IBSFC Fishery Rule(Rule 2)	From contracting parties To the Commission	Communication	Monthly, on the last day of each month for the preceding month	Statistics of landings of other contracting parties, broken down by Fishery Zone and species managed by IBSFC TACs.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (23.06.1979, Bonn)	Art. 6	From the contracting parties To the Conference of the parties through the Secretariat	Report on the implementation of the convention	At least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference (Next meeting during the first half of 2002)	Range States for migratory species listed in Appendix I and II should inform the Conference of the parties through the Secretariat of the measures being undertaken for the conservation of listed species for which they are range States.	Resolution 4.1. (11-6-94) provides model formats for contracting parties, new and old, to follow when making their national report. In the case of new parties, a comprehensive initial report is required, and in the case of longer standing parties, updated information only is sought. Many parties to the convention have never submitted national reports or have not submitted information in sufficient detail. A new reporting system will be developed by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Scientific Council and the Standing Committee to be operational on a voluntary basis for COP7.
	Art. 6	From parties To the Secretariat	Notification	Unspecified	Parties shall keep the Secretariat informed in regard to which of the migratory species listed in Appendices I and II, they consider themselves to be range States, including provision of information on their flag vessels engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in taking the migratory species concerned and, where possible, future plans in respect of such taking.	
	Art. 3.7	From parties To the Secretariat	Report	As soon as possible	Parties must inform the Secretariat of exceptions made to the prohibition on taking of Appendix I species.	Although the Secretariat is aware informally of some cases of such taking, parties have never informed it officially.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (19.09.1979, Bern)	Art. 9	From contracting parties To the Standing Committee	Report on the exceptions made under Article 9.1	Every two years (Last report December 1999; next report by 2001)	<p>Report to the Standing Committee on the exceptions made:</p> <p>From the provisions of Article 4 (protection of habitats).</p> <p>From the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 7 (protection of species).</p> <p>From the prohibition of the use of the means mentioned in Article 8.</p> <p>These reports must specify:</p> <p>The populations which are or have been subject to the exceptions and, when practical, the number of specimens involved.</p> <p>The means authorised for the killing or capture.</p> <p>The conditions of risk and the circumstances of time and place under which such exceptions were granted.</p> <p>The authority empowered to declare that these conditions have been fulfilled, and to take decisions in respect of the means that may be used, their limits and the persons instructed to carry them out.</p> <p>The controls involved.</p>	<p>Contracting parties are required to use model forms for their biennial report, bearing in mind Resolution No. 2 (1993) on the scope of Articles 8 and 9 of the Bern Convention. European community States do not need to report on exceptions regarding birds, as the European Union will cover that obligation for all member States.</p> <p>The main problem existing in relation to the reporting is that some countries deliver their reports very late.</p>

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties Involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Standing Committee	From contracting parties To the Standing Committee	General report	Every four years	These reports shall include the following information according to the guidelines approved by the Standing Committee: General information. General implementation of the convention. Habitat Conservation. Species conservation. Research. Publications. Meetings. General implementation problems as caused by the convention.	To be submitted every fourth year in combination with the national report as required under Article 9 of the Bern Convention. On the 17th meeting, the parties approved guidelines for the contents of a general report by the parties.
	Art. 11	From contracting parties To the Standing Committee	Notification	Unspecified	Notification of species receiving complete protection on its territory and not included in Appendices I and II.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
Convention on Biological Diversity (05.06.1992, Rio Janeiro)	Art. 26	From contracting parties To the Conference of the parties	Report on the implementation of the convention	In Decision IV/14, the Conference of the parties encouraged parties that had submitted an interim report to submit full reports by 31 December 1998. Next national report (second) shall probably be submitted after next COP (15-26 May 2000), probably in May 2001; it will be decided there.	Parties shall report to the Conference of the parties on measures it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of the convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the convention. Parties decided that the first national reports should 'focus in so far as possible on the measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the convention, as well as the information available in national country studies on biological diversity' (decision II/17).	The Annex to Decision II/17 contains suggested guidelines for the first national report. A proposal for a reporting format for the second national reports is contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on guidelines for national reporting prepared for the fifth meeting of the parties. Thus, the COP will consider the recommendation on guidelines and format for the second national reports in May 2000. Until then, nothing is decided. 112 reports have been submitted. All EU Member States have submitted reports.
	Art. 17	The contracting parties shall facilitate the exchange of information	Exchange of information	Unspecified	The exchange of information shall include: Results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research. Information on training and surveying programmes. Specialised knowledge, indigenous and traditional knowledge as such and in combination with the technologies referred to in Article 16.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
4. Air and atmosphere						
<p>Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (13.11.1979, Geneva) and Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-Term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (28.09.1984, Geneva)</p>	Art. 8	<p>From contracting parties To contracting parties, within the framework of the Executive Body and bilaterally</p>	Annual report	Yearly	<p>Parties shall report on relevant information and exchange information on:</p> <p>a) Data on emissions at periods of time to be agreed upon, of agreed air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide, coming from grid-units of agreed size, or on the fluxes of agreed air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide, across national borders, at distances and at periods of time to be agreed upon.</p> <p>b) Major changes in national policies and in general industrial development, and their potential impact, which would be likely to cause significant changes in long-range transboundary air pollution.</p> <p>c) Control technologies for reducing air pollution relevant to long-range transboundary air pollution.</p> <p>d) The projected cost of the emission control of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants on a national scale.</p> <p>e) Meteorological and physico-chemical data relating to the processes during transmission.</p> <p>f) Physico-chemical and biological data relating to the effects of long-range transboundary air pollution and the extent of the damage, which these data indicate, can be attributed to long-range transboundary air pollution.</p> <p>g) National, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 9 and 10	From parties To the ECE Secretariat	Annual data reporting of emission data within EMEP	Yearly, before 31 December for the year preceding the year concerned	<p>Following the 2000 Work-Plan for the Implementation of the convention parties shall submit data from the territories covered by EMEP for Sox, Nox, NMVOCs, NH3, CO, HMs (priority metals: Cd, Hg and Pb) and selected POPs and possible updates of previous figures. National totals, sectoral data (SNAP level 1) and subsectoral data (SNAP level 2) should be reported.</p> <p>For CO2 and CH4 the same data as reported under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be submitted. Monitoring data on actual depositions of air pollution are collected and analysed under the EMEP programme (Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe). Periodic public reviews of national reports and the data collected through EMEP and other cooperative programmes under the convention have served as a mechanism to induce compliance. The Executive Body publishes the reviews after de-restriction for the convention.</p>	<p>Parties to the convention are committed to submit their official emission data and agreed related information following the reporting procedure and timetable established. Official submissions should be in accordance with the reporting guidelines. During three months from receipt parties are expected to complete missing data with respect to source classification.</p>
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (31.10.1988, Sofia).	Art. 8	From the parties To the Executive Body	Notification under 1988 Protocol	Occasionally	<p>Parties shall exchange information by notifying the executive body of:</p> <p>The national programmes;</p> <p>Policies;</p> <p>Strategies;</p> <p>that they develop in accordance with Article 7.</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 8	From parties To the Executive Body	Reporting under 1988 Protocol	Yearly	<p>Parties shall exchange information on progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies, and in particular:</p> <p>The levels of national annual emissions of nitrogen oxides and the basis upon which they have been calculated.</p> <p>Progress in applying national emission standards required pursuant to Article 2.2(a) and (b), the national emission standards applied and the sources and/or source categories concerned.</p> <p>Progress in introducing the pollution control measures required pursuant to Article 2.2(c), the source concerned and the measure introduced or to be introduced.</p> <p>Progress in making unleaded fuel available.</p> <p>Measures taken to facilitate the exchange of technology.</p> <p>Progress in establishing critical loads.</p>	
Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (22.03.1985, Vienna), Montreal Protocol and amendments	Art. 4	From contracting parties To bodies agreed upon by the parties	Exchange of information between Parties	Unspecified	Scientific, technical, socio-economic, business, commercial and legal information.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 5, 6 and first. COP	From contracting parties To the COP through the Secretariat	Biannual report	Every two years	Each contracting party shall submit to the Secretariat of the Convention a summary of the measures adopted by the party for the implementation of the convention and of protocols to which they are party. In accordance with Paragraph 5 of Annex II of the convention, the biennial reporting shall include the socio-economic and commercial information on the substances referred to in Annex I.	To this end the Secretariat shall prepare a format for reporting and shall ensure any required confidentiality of the information supplied to it
	Art. 7 Protocol	From parties To the Ozone Secretariat	Reports on statistical data on substances listed in Annex A	Within three months of becoming party	Each party shall provide to the Secretariat: Statistical data on its production, imports and exports of each of the controlled substances in Annex A for the year 1986. Or the best possible estimates of such data where actual data are not available. For parties operating under the provisions of Paragraph 8(a) of Article 2, this requirements shall be satisfied if the regional economic integration organisation concerned provides data on imports and exports between the organisation and States that are not members of that organisation.	Parties must submit data using the approved data forms for annual reporting of data to the Ozone Secretariat, including instructions to be followed when filling them. Countries have a legal obligation to submit data to the Ozone Secretariat to the extent that they have ratified the respective amendments.
	Art. 7 Protocol	From parties To the Ozone Secretariat	Reports on statistical data on substances listed in Annexes B, C and E	Within three months of the date when these provisions enter into force for that party	Each party shall provide to the Secretariat statistical data on its production, imports and exports of each of the controlled substances: In Annexes B and C, for the year 1989; In Annex E, for the year 1991; or the best possible estimates of such data where actual data are not available. For parties operating under the provisions of Paragraph 8(a) of Article 2, this requirements shall be satisfied if the regional economic integration organisation concerned provides data on imports and exports between the organisation and States that are not members of that organisation.	Parties must submit data using the approved data forms for annual reporting of data to the Ozone Secretariat, including instructions to be followed when filling them

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 7 Protocol	From parties To the Ozone Secretariat	Reports on imports, exports, production, destruction and trade with non parties	Yearly. Data shall be forwarded not later than nine months after the end of the year to which the data relate (by 30 September).	<p>Each party shall provide to the Secretariat statistical data on its annual production (as defined in Paragraph 5 of Article 1 of each of the controlled substances listed in Annexes A, B, C and E and, separately, for each substance: Amounts used for feedstock. Amounts destroyed by technologies approved by the parties. Imports from and exports to parties and non-parties respectively, for the year during which provisions concerning the substances in Annexes A, B, C and E respectively entered into force for that party and for each year thereafter. Each party shall provide to the Secretariat separate statistical data of its annual imports and exports of each of the controlled substances listed in Group II of Annex A and Group I of Annex C that have been recycled. For parties operating under the provisions of Paragraph 8(a) of Article 2, this requirement shall be satisfied if the regional economic integration organisation concerned provides data on imports and exports between the organisation and States that are not members of that organisation.</p>	Parties must submit data using the approved data forms for annual reporting of data to the Ozone Secretariat, including instructions to be followed when filling them in
	Art. 9 Protocol	From parties To the Ozone Secretariat	Report on research, development, public awareness and exchange of information	Every two years	Summary of activities on research, development, public awareness and exchange of information.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 2 Protocol	From parties To the Secretariat	Notification of the transfer of allowed production of Annex A, B and E substances	As and when it occurs	Any party may, for one or more control periods, transfer to another party any portion of its calculated level of production set out in Articles 2A to 2E, and Article 2H, provided that the total combined calculated levels of production of the parties concerned for any group of controlled substances do not exceed the production limits set out in those articles for that group. Such transfer of production shall be notified to the Secretariat by each of the parties concerned, stating the terms of such transfer and the period for which it is to apply.	
	Art. 2 Protocol	From parties not operating under Article 5.1 To the Secretariat	Notification of the transfer of HCFC consumption	As and when it occurs	Any party not operating under Paragraph 1 of Article 5 may, for one or more control periods, transfer to another such party any portion of its calculated level of consumption set out in Article 2F, provided that the calculated level of consumption of controlled substances in Group I of Annex A of the party transferring the portion of its calculated level of consumption did not exceed 0.25 kilograms per capita in 1989 and that the total combined calculated levels of consumption of the parties concerned do not exceed the consumption limits set out in Article 2F. Such transfer of consumption shall be notified to the Secretariat by each of the parties concerned, stating the terms of such transfer and the period for which it is to apply.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
		From Article 5 Parties To the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund in Montreal	Report on the progress of implementation of country programmes	Yearly (by 1 May of the following year)	Parties are required to submit annually statistical data on production, imports, exports and consumption by sector of all controlled substances to the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund in Montreal.	Specific data forms
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (09.05.1992, New York)	Art. 4 and Art. 12	From parties To the COP through the Secretariat	National inventories report	Each year, by 15 April	According to what was decided in decision 3/CP1 all parties shall submit to the COP through the Secretariat, on an annual basis by 15 April, an updated inventory report containing detailed and complete information on their inventories for all years from the base year to the year of the current annual inventory submission, in order to ensure the transparency of the inventory.	The reporting system is based on the existence of a set of guidelines

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 4 and Art. 12	From parties To the COP through the Secretariat	National communications	Within six months of the entry into force of the convention for that party. On a regular basis of two to five years to be determined by the COP (third communication: due by 30 November, 2001 Decision 11/CP4).	National communication on the implementation of the convention.	The reporting system is based on the existence of a set of guidelines that parties should follow in the submission of their reports to the Secretariat to the convention and the periodical review procedure of such guidelines established under the convention. The reporting guidelines adopted by the COP have been revised and updated several times so far. The last revision of such guidelines was adopted recently at COP 5 in Bonn in order to update them for the preparation of the third national communication, scheduled for 30 November 2001. The revision of the revised guidelines contains a common reporting format, which is part of the national inventory report. According to it, Annex I parties will, from 2000, have to report their inventory information using the tables of the common reporting format.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
5. Industry/hazardous substances and wastes						
Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (22.03.1989, Basel) ⁴ .	Art. 13	From parties To the Conference of the parties through the Secretariat	Annual report	Before the end of each calendar year	Before the end of each calendar year, the parties shall transmit, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the parties, a report on the previous calendar year which, inter alia, will contain information on the measures adopted by them in implementation of the convention, including the following: a) Competent authorities and focal points that have been designated by them pursuant to Article 5. b) Information regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which they have been involved, including: The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country and disposal method as stated on the response to notification. The amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported, their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods.	

⁴ The document Checklist on Basel Convention Issues (1-5-2000) sums up the comments and submissions to be provided to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention established at the recent meetings of the Legal and Technical Working Group (3-7 April 2000) and various decisions adopted by COP 5 in December 1999.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
					<p>Disposals which did not proceed as intended. Efforts to achieve a reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes or other wastes subject to transboundary movement.</p> <p>c) Information on the measures adopted by them in implementation of this convention.</p> <p>d) Information on available qualified statistics which have been compiled by them on the effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes.</p> <p>e) Information concerning bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements entered into pursuant to Article 11 of this convention.</p> <p>f) Information on accidents occurring during the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes and on the measures undertaken to deal with them.</p> <p>g) Information on disposal options operated within the area of their national jurisdiction.</p> <p>h) Information on measures undertaken for development of technologies for the reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes.</p> <p>i) Such other matters as the Conference of the parties shall deem relevant.</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 11	From parties To the Secretariat	Notification of bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements	Occasionally	Parties shall notify the Secretariat of any bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes with parties or non-parties provided that such agreements or arrangements do not derogate from the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes as required by this convention.	
	Art. 13	From parties To States which present risks to human health and the environment	Notification of accidents	Whenever it comes to their knowledge	Parties shall ensure that in case of an accident occurring during the transboundary movement of wastes likely to present risks to human health and the environment in other States, those States are immediately informed.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 13	From parties To parties through the Secretariat	Exchange of information between parties	Occasionally	Parties shall inform each other through the Secretariat of: a) Changes regarding the designation of competent authorities and/or focal points, pursuant to Article 5. b) Changes in their national definition of hazardous wastes, pursuant to Article 3. c) As soon as possible, decisions made by them not to consent totally or partially to the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes for disposal within the area under their national jurisdiction. d) Decisions taken by them to limit or ban the export of hazardous wastes or other wastes. e) Any other information required pursuant to Paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the convention.	
	Art. 6	Between competent authorities of import, export and transit States	Notification and responses of transboundary movement between parties	Occasionally	Article 6 establishes a mechanism to notify between parties transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes. Annex V indicates the information to be provided on notification and on the movement document.	
	Art. 13	From parties To the Secretariat	Transmission of notifications	Occasionally	The parties, consistent with national laws and regulations, shall ensure that copies of each notification concerning any given transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes, and the response to it, are sent to the Secretariat when a party that considers its environment may be affected by that transboundary movement has requested that this should be done.	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
6. General						
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (25.02.1991, Spoo).	Art. 3 and Art. 4	Between concerned parties, through a joint body where one exists	Environmental impact assessment procedure	Appropriate time scale	<p>The convention provides in Articles 3 and 4 for a series of procedural steps by which the party of origin notifies any party which it considers may be an affected party about a proposed activity, obtains information about the potential transboundary environmental impact for the proposed activity and submits the EIA documentation.</p> <p>Thus, for a proposed activity listed in Annex I of the convention that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the party of origin shall notify any party which it considers may be an affected party and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity. This notification shall contain, inter alia:</p> <p>Information on the proposed activity, including any available information on its possible transboundary impact.</p> <p>The nature of the possible decision.</p> <p>An indication of a reasonable time within which a response from the other party about whether or not it intends to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure, taking into account the nature of the proposed activity, may be received. This may include:</p>	<p>The environmental impact assessment documentation to be submitted to the competent authority of the party of origin shall contain, as a minimum, the information described in Appendix II.</p> <p>Some uncertainty exists with respect to what constitutes an informal contact and what is considered a formal notification. Standardised formats have not always been used and thus potentially affected parties have been uncertain as to how to react. It is recommended that the official notification should be preceded by unofficial contacts, made firstly by the regional authorities to the point of contact in the country of origin and secondly by the country of origin to the affected country.</p>

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
					<p>Relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments.</p> <p>Relevant information on the proposed activity and its possible significant adverse transboundary impact.</p> <p>However, in practice the information included in the notification would depend on the particular moment in the EIA process.</p> <p>The affected party shall respond to the party of origin within the time specified in the notification, acknowledging receipt of the notification, and shall indicate whether it intends to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure.</p> <p>The concerned parties also have to arrange for public participation.</p>	
	Art. 3.7	Between concerned parties	Notification	At the request of the affected party	<p>Notification when a party considers that it would be affected by a significant adverse transboundary impact of a proposed activity listed in Annex I and no notification has taken place. The concerned parties shall exchange sufficient information for the purposes of holding discussions on whether there is likely to be a significant adverse transboundary impact.</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 7	From parties To parties	Notification	Immediately	When as a result of post-project analysis, the party of origin or the affected party has reasonable grounds for concluding that there is a significant adverse transboundary impact or factors have been discovered which may result in such an impact, it shall immediately inform the other party.	
	Art. 9	From parties To parties	Exchange of information	Regularly	<p>The parties shall inform each other on the results of specific research programmes aimed at:</p> <p>a) Improving existing qualitative and quantitative methods for assessing the impacts of proposed activities.</p> <p>b) Achieving a better understanding of cause-effect relationships and their role in integrated environmental management.</p> <p>c) Analysing and monitoring the efficient implementation of decisions on proposed activities with the intention of minimising or preventing impacts.</p> <p>d) Developing methods to stimulate creative approaches in the search for environmentally sound alternatives to proposed activities, production and consumption patterns.</p> <p>e) Developing methodologies for the application of the principles of environmental impact assessment at the macro-economic level.</p>	

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
	Art. 11	From parties To parties within the Meeting of parties	Report on the implementation of the convention	At the meeting of the parties (next meeting year 2000)	The parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this convention. Thus, they shall exchange information regarding experience gained in concluding and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements or other arrangements regarding the use of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context to which one or more of the parties is party.	
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (17.06.1994, Paris)	Art. 26 and Decisions 5/COP.2 and 11/COP 1	From affected country parties that implement action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 15 To the Conference of the parties, through the Secretariat	Reports on national action programmes	At least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed. A rotation system has been established, alternating between African country parties and affected country parties of other regions.	Each party shall communicate to the COP for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the convention. Affected country parties that implement action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 15 shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and of their implementation. Affected country parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to Article 5 (obligations of affected country parties) and any relevant information on their implementation. In addition to reports on action programmes, any group of affected country parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes.	Decision 11/COP1 establishes a structure to be followed in producing national reports.
	Art. 26 and Decisions 5/COP.2 and 11/COP 1	From affected country parties that implement action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 15 To the Conference of the parties, through the Secretariat	Reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes	At least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed. A rotation system has been established, alternating between African country parties and affected country parties of other regions.	Each party shall communicate to the Conference of the parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures, which it has taken for the implementation of the convention. Affected country parties that implement action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 15 shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and of their implementation. Affected country parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to Article 5 (obligations of affected country parties) and any relevant information on their implementation.	Decision 11/COP1 establishes a structure to be followed in producing national reports.

Main reporting obligations						
Convention	Origin	Parties involved	Kind of reporting	Schedule	Content	General explanation
					In addition to reports on action programmes, any group of affected country parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes.	
	Art. 26 and Decisions 5/COP.2 and 11/COP 1	From developed country parties To the Conference of the parties, through the Secretariat	Reports of developed country parties	At least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed. A rotation system has been established, alternating between African country parties and affected country parties of other regions.	Each party shall communicate to the Conference of the parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the convention. Developed country parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the convention. In addition to reports on action programmes, any group of affected country parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes.	Decision 11/COP1 establishes a structure to be followed in producing national reports.
	Art. 26 and Decisions 5/COP.2 and 11/COP 1	From developed country parties not preparing action programmes To the Conference of the parties, through the Secretariat	Reports of affected developed country parties not preparing action programmes	At least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed. A rotation system has been stabilised, alternating between African country parties and affected country parties of other regions.	Each party shall communicate to the Conference of the parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the convention. Affected country parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to Article 5 (obligations of affected country parties) and any relevant information on their implementation. In addition to reports on action programmes, any group of affected country parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes.	Decision 11/COP1 establishes a structure to be followed in producing national reports.